

MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

27 DECEMBER 1982

Lebanon-Israel Negotiations

Talks Scheduled -- The first and second sessions of the Lebanon-Israel negotiations are scheduled to be held on 28 December in Khaldah and on 30 December in Qiryat Shemona, according to reports broadcast by both Beirut and IDF radios. The talks will subsequently be held 2 days each week, on Mondays in Khaldah and on Thursdays in Qiryat Shemona, Jerusalem television reported.

Reasons For Delay -- "A most reliable source" told the Tel Aviv daily HA'ARETZ that the main factor in delaying the start of the talks was Israeli Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon's insistence that the Lebanese Government's representatives sign a written document before direct negotiations began. Although the Lebanese representatives refused to sign the document formulated during previous talks with the defense minister, over the weekend "authoritative figures in President al-Jumayyil's government" reaffirmed their support for the agreement, and the Israeli Government decided to begin direct negotiations, Jerusalem radio reported. Lebanese Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan claimed on 24 December that the Israelis made new proposals "daily," thus causing the negotiations to be delayed, Beirut radio reported. However, the Israeli Cabinet secretary asserted on 26 December that there had been no change in the Israeli position since the government approved the document a week ago, Jerusalem radio reported.

Agenda, Lebanese Approval -- The Israeli defense minister announced at the 26 December Cabinet meeting that when the negotiations begin Israel will propose a draft agreement on normalization, the security arrangements, and the order of the IDF's withdrawal from Lebanon, Jerusalem radio revealed. Noting that Lebanon has not formally ratified the working paper, THE JERUSALEM POST reported that Lebanon has apparently drafted its own agenda. Nevertheless, Sharon is confident that President Amin al-Jumayyil firmly supports the working paper and that key Muslim leaders in Lebanon acknowledge the paper as the basis of the eventual Israel-Lebanon accord, the paper added. The Tel Aviv daily YEDI'OT AHARONOT believes that Israel and Lebanon have achieved "a far-reaching understanding, even before the first official meeting," Jerusalem radio reported in its review of press editorials.

Israeli Reaction -- In a 24 December interview broadcast by IDF radio, Israeli Deputy Prime Minister David Levi termed Sharon's assistance in promoting the talks "most welcome," but cautioned against "euphoria and complacency" because there are still many details to be worked out. Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres praised the Cabinet's decision to change its stand on venue, on the level of the negotiators as well as on its demand for a peace treaty as "wise and timely," and stated that he expects the negotiations to achieve positive results, Jerusalem radio reported on 23 December. However, several ministers attending the 26 December Cabinet meeting, notably Communications Minister Mordekhay Tzipori, criticized Sharon for the premature publicity the agreement received, Jerusalem radio revealed.

PLO, Syrian Withdrawal -- After meeting with two official Lebanese envoys to discuss their recent talks in Tunis with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and Executive Committee member Salah Khalaf, the Lebanese prime minister announced that the PLO's stands are "positive" and will not prevent Lebanon from reaching its goal, Beirut radio revealed. The envoys were told that the Palestinian forces in the Al-Biqa' and the north will withdraw as soon as Israel withdraws, Beirut radio declared. Although the radio report noted that Syria had earlier conveyed a "similar" stand to the Lebanese president, the Tel Aviv daily MA'ARIV claimed on 24 December that Syria and the Lebanese left are exerting heavy pressure on Al-Jumayyil and Al-Wazzan and are threatening Lebanese Government leaders in an effort to undermine the negotiations.

Khaladah Security Situation -- Lebanese Army troops and a U.S. unit from the multinational force have assumed positions at the Khaladah Hotel, where the Lebanese-Israeli talks are scheduled to begin on 28 December, the Tel Aviv daily HA'ARETZ reported on 24 December. IDF forces intervened in Khaladah on 23 December to prevent further Christian-Druze clashes, and on 25 December the two groups agreed to maintain a ceasefire, according to Jerusalem radio reports. Meanwhile, Beirut radio reported shelling and sniper fire in the Kahadah area on 24 December, in what the Voice of Lebanon radio described as "violent clashes." However, another Voice of Lebanon report stated that the situation eased later in the day when "leftists socialists" left the area. Three Phalangists were killed and four of their military vehicles were burned when Phalangist militias tried to advance from Khaladah toward Ash-Shuwayfat; local residents prevented another Phalangist militia unit from advancing toward Ad-Dawah to set up roadblocks in the Khaladah area, the clandestine Voice of Arab Lebanon radio reported. Tense calm prevailed in the Khaladah area on 25 December according to Beirut radio, but both Beirut and Voice of Lebanon radios reported renewed clashes on 26 December.

Sidon Explosions -- An IDF spokesman announced that two IDF soldiers were killed and one was injured following an explosion near an IDF position in the area of the 'Ayn al-Hulwah refugee camp, Jerusalem radio reported on 23 December. According to AFP reports, six Israeli soldiers were killed and two Lebanese civilians were wounded when a rocket was fired at the Israeli army's civilian assistance headquarters located near the refugee camp south of Sidon. Israeli forces surrounded the Lebanese Army barracks in Sidon on 24 December and detained the barracks commander for several hours, Beirut Voice of Lebanon reported.

A bomb exploded near the Phalangist Party building in Sidon on 26 December, but there were no casualties, Jerusalem radio reported. The military governor's headquarters north of Sidon was attacked by men armed with RPG's and machineguns on 26 December, Beirut radio reported. Preliminary reports indicate that four people were killed and six were injured, the radio added.

Syria

Ba'th Party Statement -- The statement issued at the end of the 18-23 December Ba'th Party Central Committee meeting and broadcast by Damascus television reiterated Syria's stand against the Camp David policy and against attempts to force the Arabs to surrender. The statement stressed the importance of continuing to promote relations with the socialist states, particularly the USSR.

Defense Minister Statement -- Defense Minister General Mustafa Talas declared at a military graduation ceremony on 23 December that because of the support Syria receives from its friends in the world, especially the USSR, Syrian forces now have the necessary skills and capabilities to achieve victory over Israel, SANA reported.

Jordan

Following the second and final round of talks he held with President Reagan in Washington on 23 December, King Husayn declared that the visit was "very successful," Amman radio reported. President Reagan described the talks as extremely fruitful and affirmed that a peace dialogue had started, the radio added. Nevertheless, Jerusalem radio revealed that Nicholas Veliotis, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern and South Asian affairs, told Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir that no breakthrough was achieved during the Jordanian monarch's Washington visit. King Husayn was not tempted by the "many concessions" Washington was prepared to make, the Tel Aviv daily MA'ARIV observed.

Egypt

A group of political and legal specialists in the Foreign Ministry and other groups concerned with the Tabah problem met to discuss the issue on 25 December, Cairo radio reported. The group emphasized Egypt's full sovereignty over the area, and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali approved their plan of action to safeguard Egypt's rights to the area, the radio added.

Zhao Ziyang Tour

PRC State Council Premier Zhao Ziyang and the delegation accompanying him departed Egypt for Algeria on 24 December, according to Cairo and Algiers radio reports. The PRC premier discussed bilateral relations with Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid during a working luncheon on 24 December, Algiers radio reported. Official talks were held on 25 and 26 December, other Algiers reports indicated. PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Algiers on 26 December and met with the PRC premier that evening, Algiers reported.

Iran-Iraq War

Sporadic Clashes on various fronts continued throughout the weekend, according to military communiques broadcast by Tehran and Baghdad radios and INA. Iranian forces halted Iraqi movement on the al-Faw-Basra road and foiled all violations of Iranian airspace, Tehran radio claimed on 24 December. Iraqi fighter planes carried out 74 successful combat missions on 25-26 December, "paralyzing" Iran's air defense command and control centers and destroying other important military targets in the southern battlefronts, Baghdad radio asserted.

Gulf Affairs

Yusuf al-Alawi, Omani minister of state for foreign affairs, told AFP that he foresees no future changes in Oman's agreements with the United States despite the agreement Oman recently signed with the PDRY. The minister claimed that the PDRY's recent protests over the U.S. military maneuvers in the area did not question the agreement, but were probably prompted by the PDRY's foreign relations, AFP added. Although the minister admitted that the Gulf countries do not want U.S. and Soviet presence in the Indian Ocean, he declared that they do seek an "equilibrium of forces" to maintain stability in the area.

Pakistan-India

Pakistan and India signed an agreement to establish a joint commission on bilateral relations, Delhi radio reported on 24 December. A joint panel chaired by the two countries' foreign ministers will meet once a year to strengthen bilateral understanding and cooperation, the radio added. Pakistan proposed several "important amendments" concerning mutual relations, which were added to the Indian draft, Karachi radio reported.

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SUNA: PLO TO END MILITARY PRESENCE IN TUNISIA

JN251818 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1715 GMT 25 Dec 82

[Text] Jidda, 25 Dec (SUNA) -- Well-informed Palestinian sources were quoted today as saying that the PLO has decided to terminate its military presence in Tunisia.

In a statement published by the weekly magazine AL-MAJALLAH, the sources explained that the Palestinian fedayeen will be transferred to Algeria and will be stationed in a camp at the Algerian border with Tunisia.

The Palestinian sources said that the headquarters of the PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat will also be transferred to another place in the Tunisian capital to avoid any Israeli military operation.

'ARAFAT RENEWS CRITICISM OF REAGAN PLAN

JN241650 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 24 Dec 82

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], PLO Executive Committee chairman and commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution forces, has reiterated his criticism of U.S. President Reagan's plan for the settlement of the Middle East crisis and the Palestinian cause. Speaking today to a Belgian paper, Abu 'Ammar said that President Reagan's proposals contained in the plan contradict the basic rights defined in the U.S. Constitution itself by ignoring the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and sovereignty.

Abu 'Ammar strongly criticized the United Kingdom for refusing to receive a PLO representative in the seven-member committee delegation, stressing that this UK stand opposes that adopted by the European group.

HANI AL-HASAN ON FRENCH-EGYPTIAN DRAFT RESOLUTION

JN231628 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1600 GMT 23 Dec 82

[Text] If the United States does not veto the French-Egyptian draft resolution when it is resubmitted to the UN Security Council, the PLO will consider this important proof of Washington's good intentions. This was stated by Hani al-Hasan, Yasir 'Arafat's adviser, in a statement to the French newspaper LE MONDE.

The French-Egyptian draft resolution demands mutual and simultaneous recognition by the Palestinians and the Israelis.

AL-WAZIR DENIES 'ARAFAT TO VISIT CAIRO

JN241748 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 24 Dec 82

[Telephone dispatch by Radio Monte Carlo correspondent in Damascus Louis Faris -- live or recorded]

[Excerpt] In an exclusive statement to our radio, Khalil al-Wazir, alias Abu Jihad, deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution forces, denied reports attributed to Sa'id Kamal saying that Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] will visit Cairo at the end of next month.

Abu Jihad said that Abu 'Ammar will not visit Cairo because the reasons which prevented such a visit continue to exist since Egypt is still committed to the Camp David line. He added that Sa'id Kamal is not authorized to make any contacts and that he is not a PLO representative in Egypt as he was deposed a long time ago.

PLO REQUESTS 'URGENT' MEETING OF FES COMMITTEE

LD232136 Kuwait KUNA in English 1800 GMT 23 Dec 82

[Text] Damascus, Dec 23 (KUNA) -- The Palestine Liberation Organisation is eager to know the outcome of the shuttle by the seven-man Arab committee to four of the permanent members of the Security Council and the committee stand regarding Britain's refusal to receive a PLO man in the committee.

A responsible Palestinian source said here Thursday that the PLO has asked for an urgent meeting of the seven committee members to discuss results of their visits and draw up a concerted action regarding what he described as the obstinate (?hand) of Britain.

The organisation has sent an official memorandum to Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Syria, Jordan and Saudi Arabia, who form the committee members together with the PLO, to hold an urgent meeting for their foreign ministers to consider the situation.

The PLO wants to know the outcome of the committee visits to Washington, Paris, Moscow and Beijing in connection with the consent of these states to the Arab peace plan reached at Fes, Morocco, in November.

The organisation, the PLO spokesman added, is deeply concerned with Britain's refusal to receive a PLO representative in the seven-man committee which twice deferred its London trip pending settlement of the issue.

Following the American line, Britain refused to receive a PLO man in the delegation while France, the Soviet Union and China welcomed him as a full member directly involved in the search for peace in the Middle East which both America and Britain claim to be aspiring for.

The PLO intends to press for coordination for a common Arab stand and concerted Arab action against Britain should the latter stick to their adamant refusal to receive the organisation's man in the committee, the PLO spokesman said.

The PLO source added that the foreign ministers of the committee are likely to meet in Morocco during the second half of January next.

Meanwhile the source said the PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat received a personal message from the British Foreign Secretary Francis Pym informing him of Britain's consent to dispatch a contingent to the multinational force in Lebanon alongside the American, Italian and French units there.

Committee To Meet 21 Jan

GF230850 Doha QNA in Arabic 0800 GMT 23 Dec 82

[Text] Kuwait, 23 Dec (QNA) -- News reports said here today that the Fes summit seven-man Arab committee will hold a meeting on 21 January 1983 in order to prepare a final report on its tour that included the United States, France, the Soviet Union, and the PRC and was aimed at briefing these countries on the Arab peace plan.

The Kuwaiti newspaper AL-WATAN, which published the report, said that contacts are currently in progress in order to set a date and place for the meeting of the Arab foreign ministers to discuss the committee's report when prepared.

The seven-member committee includes Saudi Arabia, Morocco, Syria, Jordan, Algeria, Tunisia, and the PLO.

PLO OFFICIALS JOIN IN MOSCOW CELEBRATIONS

JN231740 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1600 GMT 23 Dec 82

[Text] The PLO participated in the celebrations of the fraternal USSR party, government, and people on the 60th anniversary of the formation of the USSR, which began 2 days ago.

The PLO delegation was headed by Brother Abu Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas], member of the PLO Executive Committee; Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh, member of the PLO Executive Committee; and 'Abdallah Hurani, head of the PLO's Information and Culture Department. The poet Mahmud Darwish also participated. The president of the general union of Palestinian students represented Palestinian youth in sharing the great celebration with the USSR youth.

'ARAFAT CABLES ANDROPOV ON USSR ANNIVERSARY

JN251744 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 25 Dec 82

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], PLO Executive Committee chairman and commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution forces, has sent a congratulatory cable to Comrade Yuriy Andropov, CPSU general secretary, and the comrade members of the CPSU Central Committee on the 60th anniversary of the formation of the USSR.

The cable says: It gives me great pleasure to extend to you, and through you to the government and great peoples of the fraternal USSR on behalf of our Palestinian people and my brother members of the PLO Executive Committee, and in my name, our warmest congratulations coupled with our wishes for the continued progress and prosperity of your friendly peoples.

In his cable, the brother leader expressed the PLO's appreciation for the USSR's firm stands on the Palestinian issue, saying: On this occasion, I wish to express the PLO's deep thanks for the USSR's firm stands in support of the just struggle of our Palestinian people to regain their national legitimate and inalienable rights, including their right to return, to self-determination, and to establish their independent state on their national soil in Palestine.

KUWAITFRG'S LAMBSDORFF COMMENTS ON TALKS, DEPARTS

LD231255 Kuwait KUNA in English 1003 GMT 23 Dec 82

[Excerpts] Kuwait, Dec 23 (KUNA) — West German Minister for Economics Otto Lambsdorff left here Thursday winding up a two-day visit to Kuwait during which he delivered a message from West German President Karl Carstens to his highness the amir on fostering cooperation between the two countries.

The minister, who left for Cairo, was seen off by the finance and planning minister, 'Abd al-Latif Yusuf al-Hamad.

At a press conference last night, Lambsdorff declared that his country's stand toward the Middle East crisis had not undergone any change from that of previous government of Chancellor Helmut Schmidt.

The minister, who arrived here Tuesday and held talks with Al-Hamad and the trade and industry minister, Jasim al-Marzuq, Oil Minister Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifah as-Sabah and Electricity and Water Minister Engineer Khalaf Ahmad al-Khalaf [name as received], described those talks as intensive and satisfactory for both sides.

The minister said that during his meeting with his highness the amir the talks centered on disarmament and the Iranian-Iraqi conflict.

He added that he had affirmed to his highness that his government stand toward the Middle East had not changed from that adopted by the previous government.

The West German minister said Kuwaiti investments in his country was a topic tackled during his meeting with Al-Hamad and said that deliberations in that respect were satisfactory for both sides.

Lambsdorff added that Al-Hamad had proposed an agreement to avoid tax duplicity between the two countries and added that his country is ready to begin negotiations over the issue saying that such negotiations would begin soon on an experts level.

The international economic situation and the role Kuwait and West Germany can play in solving major financial problems in the world was also discussed with Al-Hamad, the minister said.

As for his meeting with Oil Minister Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifah as-Sabah, Lambsdorff said the Kuwaiti minister had briefed him on his views toward the recent OPEC ministerial conference in Vienna.

He added that comprehensive talks were conducted with Shaykh 'Ali on the international energy situation, the expected development in oil markets and means of utilizing natural gas resources.

The West German minister reiterated that his country's stand toward the Middle East crisis is emanating from the Venice Declaration adopted by the European Economic Community.

He added that West Germany is committed to that declaration, which calls for the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and the right of Israel to exist and which supports the U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

Lambsdorff denied reports that there is an idea for setting up a joint Tunisian-Kuwaiti-West German bank saying that there is a Tunisian proposal on the possibility of coordinating West German technological know-how and the financial capabilities of Kuwait and Saudi Arabia to cope with requirements of Tunisia.

"There is an idea of launching joint ventures between those countries but it is still a theory awaiting practical implementation", the minister told the press conference.

OMAN

MINISTER ON SOVIET THREAT, U.S. MANEUVERS

NC261425 Paris AFP in English 1354 GMT 26 Dec 82

[Text] Muscat, Oman, Dec. 26 (AFP) -- Oman still feels the Soviet Union has expansionist designs in the Gulf region, despite Oman's recent signing of an accord with Soviet ally South Yemen, Omani Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Yusuf al-Alawi said here in an interview.

Speaking to Agence France-Presse, Mr. al-Alawi said: "Soviet forces can now reach the Gulf without any problem."

But he said that if the Soviet Union withdrew its troops from Afghanistan the Gulf nations would be able to "consider future relations with Moscow in the interests of peace and stability."

The minister of state called reports in the U.S. press on the American "Jade Tiger" military maneuvers early this month in south Oman "exaggerated and incorrect." He denied that Egypt or "any other Arab country" had participated.

Neither Oman nor the U.S. Defense Department has made any comment on the military exercises.

"These maneuvers have goals that coincide perfectly with what we want," said Mr. al-Alawi.

He said he foresaw no changes in Omani policy on "military and other" agreements with the United States.

"We feel these agreements fall within the framework of the fundamental interests of Gulf Cooperation Council countries" and that cooperation between the United States and Arab nations should be increased, Mr. al-Alawi said.

"The countries of the region did not want U.S. and Soviet forces to be present in the Indian Ocean. All we seek is to strengthen the equilibrium of forces surrounding us in order to maintain stability," he added.

The minister of state said the agreement signed with South Yemen "recognized, in one of its clauses, the right of each of the two countries to cooperate, without any reserve, with a third party, provided this did not threaten the security and the sovereignty of a neighboring state."

Oman and South Yemen, which grant military facilities to both the United States and the Soviet Union, signed an agreement of principle in October to begin working towards establishing diplomatic relations.

This agreement was initiated by the Gulf Cooperation Council, made up of Oman, Kuwait, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and the United Arab Emirates.

Mr. al-Alawi said recent South Yemeni protests against the U.S. maneuvers did not question the agreement but "probably came from the need this country has to make such declarations for reasons related to its foreign relations or to the style of its domestic policies."

SAUDI ARABIA

KING FAHD RETURNS TO RIYADH, WELCOMED AT AIRPORT

GF261556 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 26 Dec 82

[Text] His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz returned to Riyadh airport at 1250 today.

At the head of those who received him were: His Highness 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, crown prince, deputy prime minister, and head of the National Guard, and His Highness Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister, defense and aviation minister, and general inspector.

When the plane landed, His Highness Prince Salman ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, prince of Riyadh Province, went up to the plane to disembark with him.

A number of princes, ministers, senior civil and military officials, and a huge crowd of citizens also greeted him at the airport.

RIYADH COMMENTS ON ANDROPOV'S MISSILE PROPOSAL

GF240734 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 23 Dec 82

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] In his speech broadcast the day before yesterday on the 60th anniversary of the Soviet Union, the Soviet leader, Yuriy Andropov, offered to reduce medium-range missiles in Europe until, according to Andropov, they are equal in number to the missiles deployed by both Britain and France. He also renewed an offer made on 2 November 1981 by his predecessor Leonid Brezhnev to dismantle all types of nuclear weapons, both medium-range and tactical, directed toward Europe.

Thus, according to this offer, the Soviet Union would have to dismantle hundreds of missiles, including scores of the most sophisticated Soviet missiles, known in the West as SS-20's. The Soviet Union would have to remove scores of missiles from its arsenal, including the multiple-warhead missiles.

What is odd is that the Soviet leader did not clarify whether the missiles that will be removed will be turned into scrap or will be merely withdrawn east of the Urals.

At present Moscow has about 600 medium-range missiles, most of which are pointed toward Western Europe. According to U.S. figures, these missiles include 333 SS-20's -- which have three nuclear warheads each -- two-thirds of which are pointed toward Western Europe, and the remainder are directed toward Asia. The remaining Soviet arsenal of missiles consists of SS-4 and SS-5's.

The Soviet offer was strongly rejected last Tuesday by the United States which at the same time left the door open to any other Soviet offer in the nuclear arms reduction talks that are held from time to time. The U.S. Government described the Soviet proposal as unacceptable. However, the U.S. State Department which set out the reasons for the rejection, maintained silence on other Soviet proposals.

As for Britain, its foreign secretary responded the same day and expressed doubts on Andropov's proposals and reaffirmed his support for the zero option proposed by U.S. President Ronald Reagan. Francis Pym said: I want it to be clear that if British weapons are reduced this should be on a mutually equal basis. This proposal should be studied in full, for the West has taken an advanced position with its zero option proposal: No missiles on the Soviet side and no deployment of medium-range missiles by Britain. Prior to that, British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher said that the Soviet proposals apparently do not preserve the necessary balance for the area's security.

The official Soviet paper had published a lengthy and unsigned article which had a semiofficial character rejecting the U.S. zero option plan, which proposed not to deploy NATO's Cruise and Pershing II missiles in return for the dismantling of all the Soviet Union's European strategic missiles, SS-4, SS-5, and SS-20's. The paper, however, added that no one should expect a flood of Soviet concessions with the approach of the time for the deployment of the new U.S. missiles at the end of 1983 in accordance with NATO plans.

Observers note that this firm clarification follows the U.S. rejection of Moscow's new proposals on the reduction of medium-range nuclear weapons.

Reports from Washington, that were confirmed by President Reagan on 14 December, say that the Soviet Union proposed at Geneva the reduction of Soviet missiles directed toward Europe by more than one half in return for NATO relinquishing its plans to deploy 572 Pershing II and Cruise missiles in Europe.

Political observers assert that this Soviet proposal is no more than a maneuver aimed at maintaining the Soviet Union's great superiority in the number of missiles it has pointed toward Western Europe. Moreover, the proposal aims to sow disunity among the NATO allies and persuade world public opinion that the Soviet Union makes serious proposals on disarmament. Moreover, the role of the national French and British nuclear force is different from the role of U.S. nuclear weapons, which may be deployed in Europe as a deterrent and in defense of NATO interests.

PDRY

YSP PAPER ON U.S. MILITARY PLANS IN REGION

GF181840 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 18 Dec 82

[Editorial published in the newspaper ATH-THAWRI, organ of the YSP Central Committee, under the headline: "The U.S. Invasion" -- date not given]

[Text] The hostile U.S. activity in our region has expanded and [words indistinct] that has various forms, tools, and methods. The military field is the most serious aspect of this activity by which the United States plans to prepare the region to become a field for testing its destructive and aggressive weapons by encouraging Tel Aviv to launch periodic wars against the Arab countries and thus use these wars to test the lethal U.S. weapons.

Washington is anxious to establish a policy of holding military maneuvers in the Arab region, establishing hostile permanent bases, and storing advanced weapons in some of the Arab countries in an attempt to further undermine national sovereignty, hit the Arab national liberation movement, and convert the region into a frontline of defense to protect U.S. interests and thus make it a focal point for international tension.

In addition to the U.S. military presence on the Egyptian border with the Israel enemy and its presence in more than one Arab country, the Pentagon is now hinting that the U.S. contribution of arms and men in the multinational force in Lebanon will be increased. It also hints that U.S. Western allies will be drawn into joint hostile military activities here and there.

In the meantime, confirmed reports note that there are suspicious military moves of U.S. and NATO fleets in the oceans and coasts near Arab countries, not to mention the announcement of U.S. preparations to actively participate in the Gulf war.

It is an even more serious matter that some Arab parties, who, not being content with turning their backs to the facts of the serious threats represented by the U.S. military activity and to the continuing White House provocation of the feelings of national sovereignty by the Arab nation's peoples, even call for confidence in the U.S. policy; they believe Washington is putting pressure on Israel and happily say that the U.S. stand on our nationalist issue is changing. Such parties sing the same tune in a campaign of casting doubts on the Arab-Soviet friendship and on the claimed communist threat. Thus, they pave the way for expanding the circle of U.S. activity and helping the United States accomplish all its hostile plans.

The U.S. military activity over a broad area of the Arab region is timed with a tense covert and overt political activity that spares not a single Arab country and that is not limited to a single method. One plan is to expand the missions of U.S. envoy Philip Habib from the Lebanese framework to a comprehensive Arab framework and his arrival in the region several days ago in an attempt to draw the concerned Arab parties to the table of submission. Another is intensifying the campaign of pressure against Syria, Libya, and the PLO as well as organizing sabotage and sectarian conflict and intervening in the internal affairs of many Arab countries while stirring up misleading propaganda.

This takes place on the basis of the policy of gaining time, utilizing the results of the Zionist invasion of Lebanon, and annulling the role of the Arab powers and countries that are hostile to Israeli-U.S. aggression. It pushes events in the interest of the Arab peoples and in the interest of peace and security in the region -- [sentence not completed]. As a result of this, U.S. activity in the region erupted and ended in a serious situation that threatens the sovereignty of all Arab countries without exception, a matter that requires a collective Arab plan to prevent normalizing the U.S. military presence in the region.

The Arab nationalist and revolutionary powers, governments, and parties are urged to unite the will of confrontation and intensify their struggle in the face of the danger of U.S. activity. Events [make it incumbent on them to] shoulder the trust of the historic responsibility to thwart this activity and contain its results. With what they possess of Arab resources and human powers that are prepared to struggle against the U.S. conspiracy, these powers are capable of shouldering this responsibility and are able to carry it through.

HA'ARETZ INTERVIEWS 'ALI ON LEBANON, RELATIONS

TA221133 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 22 Dec 82 pp 1, 2

[Report by correspondent in Egypt 'Amos Elon on interview with Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali in Egypt on 21 December]

[Text] Cairo -- Interviewed by HA'ARETZ yesterday, Egyptian Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali said Egypt would "warmly welcome" the beginning of an Israeli withdrawal from the Ash-Shuf hills and direct talks between Israel and Lebanon, but he added that for the moment Ambassador Murtada will not return to Tel Aviv. He will only return after a final timetable for the pullout of all Israeli forces from Lebanon has been set.

'Ali placed the exclusive responsibility for the freeze between Israel and Egypt on Israel's shoulders. "Everything was geared toward peace, full peace after 26 April (the day the Sinai was totally evacuated); there was a momentum for normalization in all spheres -- cultural and commercial -- until all of a sudden the abrupt Israeli incursion into Lebanon came." Worse still, he said, was what he called "the siege of an Arab capital," the "bombings" and finally the "massacre" in the Palestinian camps.

The Israelis should understand why the Egyptian reaction to these events was as harsh as it was, 'Ali emphasized. He admitted that Israel also had legitimate security reasons to send its army to Lebanon. But, he said, the Egyptian reaction was that harsh because Israel went beyond what could have been justified for purely defense considerations. It exercised "brute force" and also imposed a "siege on an Arab capital" out of political calculations.

Hence Israeli-Egyptian relations are presently in "dire straits," but there is nothing to indicate that the present situation would have to continue, 'Ali said, if "we are careful to handle them cautiously."

How? First of all, Israel will have to withdraw from Lebanon, 'Ali emphasized, and it must not try to dictate conditions for Lebanon. "Appropriate security arrangements should be worked out for southern Lebanon along the Israeli border," but Israel should not, at this stage, force both "peace and normalization." Making peace under such conditions would be "a mistake not only from Lebanon's point of view, but also from Israel's. That peace should come willingly, not out of coercion, with half the country conquered."

Question: But Egypt, too, signed a peace agreement with Israel while the Sinai was conquered by the IDF?

Answer: "No, that was different. Egypt is Egypt, and Lebanon is Lebanon. Lebanon is a small and weak country. Also, Egypt only made peace after the October 1973 war, and were it not for the achievements it scored in that war, it would not have made peace with Israel." The principle that guided the Israeli-Egyptian peacemakers, "territory in return for peace," should not be applied to the Lebanese case, because of that country's weakness and domestic plights.

Speaking about the "security arrangements" that should prevail in southern Lebanon, 'Ali emphasized that "the IDF's presence in the south is totally out of the question, it should not even enter one's mind." Nor does he accept surveillance flights or early-warning stations, because they seem to him to constitute an impingement on "Lebanon's sovereignty." In 'Ali's opinion, there are good chances that a central government will be established in Lebanon with the help of the international community after all the foreign forces withdraw from it.

That administration would be able to work out appropriate security arrangements along the Israeli border, such as would satisfy Israel "perhaps not in a month or a year, but certainly this is possible within a reasonable period of time."

Regarding the "closer contacts growing between Egypt and the PLO," the Egyptian foreign minister said "this is a new and extremely important development." It began in the days of the siege of West Beirut, and the main objective of these contacts is to "bring the PLO to unilaterally recognize Israel, its right to exist, and to bring about its participation in the autonomy talks." A unilateral PLO recognition of Israel will help everyone: Israel, its government, its people, as well as the U.S. Administration... Mr Begin will then have no cause to insist on his current position toward that organization... This will, as everyone would agree, improve the atmosphere." We received 'Arafat's representative here in Cairo only yesterday.

Question: Is the PLO truly prepared to recognize Israel?

The Egyptian foreign minister thought for a long moment, and then admitted: "There are difficulties. I know them; but at least once they agree with Jordan on the composition of the delegation to the talks we will be able to resume the negotiations over autonomy. This, too, is no mere pittance. It is true it requires patience, but Egypt has lots of it. We were patient in the past, and we will continue to be patient in the future as well."

ABU GHAZALAH INTERVIEWED ON U.S. MILITARY AID

PM221619 Cairo MAY in Arabic 20 Dec 82 p 3

[Field Marshal 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, deputy prime minister and minister of defense and war production, interview with Sana' as-Sa'id in Cairo -- date not given]

[Excerpts] [Question] Many people have wondered about the purpose of your visit to the United States last November, which was your second visit in 8 months. Was this visit to strengthen bilateral relations or to review Egyptian-U.S. relations?

[Answer] Egyptian-U.S. relations do not need what you call "reviewing," because they are relations based on Egypt's higher interests. Therefore, there is no need for us to review existing relations. To explain the main reason for my visit I should say that it was in order to discuss military cooperation with the U.S. Defense Department officials and to discuss the amount of military aid for Egypt to be allocated in the 1983 and 1984 budgets.

[Question] But discussion of the amount of aid for Egypt took place earlier and, therefore, there is nothing new in the matter.

[Answer] What was discussed before, and for which I visited the United States in 1981, was aimed at convincing the Reagan administration to submit the 1983 budget proposals to the Congress containing \$1.3 billion in military aid, including a \$400 million grant. We succeeded in this. The congressional endorsement of the 1983 budget takes place in the November/December session, which required my visit so as to ensure congressional endorsement and to see that the U.S. Administration would take a firm stand in the face of any attempts to reduce the aid.

[Question] The visit therefore was in direct response to the fears here about the possibility the United States would reduce military and economic aid to Egypt.

[Answer] It was a God-given success that they understood the situation, particularly since the Congress intended to reduce the total foreign aid. It had actually intended to reduce military and economic aid to Egypt. But I convinced them of the facts -- that this would harm Egyptian-U.S. relations especially following Lebanon's tragic events. The Senate agreed to give Egypt \$1.3 billion in military aid, of which \$400 million is an outright grant.

[Question] The \$1.3 billion is the same amount of aid as this year, whereas it was said that your visit was in order to increase aid in 1983 and 1984 to \$1.7 billion.

[Answer] The amount of aid for 1982 was \$900 million; what was agreed upon with the U.S. Government for the 1983-84 budget was \$1.3 billion.

This year, we proposed to the U.S. Government that its 1984 budget proposals, which will be submitted in early 1983 and approved in November of the same year, should include \$1.7 billion in military aid, half of which should be a grant, just as in the case of aid to Israel this year. I hope the message has been received by President Reagan's administration. The subject will undoubtedly be one of the main topics to be discussed during President Mubarak's visit to the United States in January 1983.

[Question] What are the implications of the step taken by the Senate Appropriations Committee, which demanded an increase of over \$400 million for the proposed aid to Israel in 1983 and which totals \$2.2 billion?

[Answer] The Reagan administration has actually opposed this, and it has the right to veto it. I believe the government will insist on its stand with regard to not increasing aid to Israel.

[Question] Could it not be just an initial stand, which Reagan's government will soon abandon and then accept the increase?

[Answer] I do not think so. I believe the U.S. Government insists on its stand.

[Question] On the other hand, could Egypt become less dependent on U.S. military aid, particularly since if we look around to see the physical presence of the U.S. military activity in Egypt we do not find it to be substantial?

[Answer] This is not true. U.S. military aid to us is tangible and evident. The United States has provided us with good weapons, but one should understand two things: First, relations between us and the Soviet Union lasted more than 20 years and, second, the large quantities of arms and equipment we obtained from the Soviet Union did not all come at one time, but rather over a somewhat prolonged period of time. Meanwhile, Egyptian-U.S. relations are only 3 years old as they began only in 1979. Therefore, it is wrong to categorically judge Egyptian-U.S. relations that are no more than 3 years old. However, the program laid with our knowledge tends toward avoiding total reliance on the United States alone for our armaments, because we believe in a policy of arms diversification. What is interesting is that many Arab countries are now pursuing this policy, including those that have strong relations with the United States or the Soviet Union.

[Question] Diversification of arms in itself might implicitly mean dissatisfaction on your part with the country on which you depend for your arms supplies, namely the United States.

[Answer] This is not true. Diversification is only a kind of precaution to avoid a repetition of the bitter experiences that we and others have been through in the past with regard to sources of arms supplies. Therefore, we are protecting ourselves from being subjected to the same experience of relying on one single source of armaments. Diversification is a kind of guarantee for us so as not to be subject to a monopoly. However, this does not mean to say the United States will do this, or that we have no confidence in it. But we plan for every exigency.

[Question] But we should not turn a blind eye to the fact that the United States is keen on maintaining Israel's qualitative superiority in arms vis-a-vis Egypt.

[Answer] I can say that we can obtain any kind of arms if we so wish. But it is we who choose and decide what we need in accordance with our financial capabilities. Also, the United States has no objection to giving us what we want. In fact, it has never happened that a particular type of weapon has been foisted upon us. Moreover, there are many sources of armaments.

[Question] There is talk these days about the possibility of restoring relations between Egypt and the Soviet Union to what they were before 1973. Should these relations be restored, will this be coupled with opening a new chapter in Egyptian-Soviet military cooperation?

[Answer] I believe it is premature to discuss this subject. It is a political decision that is made at the highest level in Egypt. It is not a decision to be made by the defense minister. Moreover, I see no need to leap ahead of events and speculate over them.

[Question] But it is being said that, although Egypt had at one time boycotted the Soviet Union, the United States did not offer, as a substitute, weapons such as those offered by the Soviets.

[Answer] Whoever is saying this is saying it out of ignorance of what we took and what did not take from the Soviet Union.

[Question] Those saying this take into consideration the fact that in the 1973 war you won with Soviet weapons.

[Answer] What about the battle in Lebanon? The battle in Lebanon indicates otherwise. Therefore, I would say that this is theoretical talk. By this, I do not mean to make an accusation that Soviet weapons are bad or inferior, as some would say. We fought them and won, and we are very familiar with them. I affirm that Soviet weapons are good, but there is no question that Western arms technology is ahead of Eastern technology. But what counts is the training, the soldier, the commander, and the officer using the equipment. It is those who can compensate for the technology. In sum, it is wrong to make arbitrary comparisons or to say that this side offered what the other side failed to offer. This is pure theorizing.

[Question] To return to the United States and its attitudes toward events in the area, many believe that the United States, in order to force Israel to give up its aggressive activities in the area, should discontinue military aid to it.

[Answer] Many views have been expressed regarding the U.S. attitude, as well as the Soviet attitude, toward events in Lebanon.

What I would like to make clear from my viewpoint is that each of the two superpowers has its own strategy and plans that do not radically change because of what happens.

Also, there are other many factors that should be taken into consideration in judging the actions of the two superpowers. Each of them subjects its moves to scientific scrutiny and decides when to move, when to intervene, and when to apply pressure. Therefore, what is being said by some people is mere speculation. However obviously strong U.S. relations with Israel may seem, and regardless of what relations the Soviet Union may have with some powers in the area, there is bound to be a dividing line between the higher interests of each of the two superpowers and their relations with any other country, including Israel.

[Question] What these people say is only a natural reaction to the display of U.S. weakness toward Israel and its actions in the area.

[Answer] I am not here defending the United States or the Soviet Union. I am only expressing my view, that we should not arbitrarily or personally judge the actions of states. One must study the attitudes and analyze the roles before judging them. Our primary aim should be Egypt's higher interests.

[Question] But the United States had often adopted stands in the area that some considered harmful to the very interests of the United States. At a time the United States is warning the countries of the area of a Soviet danger, its behavior toward Israel and the area does not show that there is real Soviet danger.

[Answer] Certain analysts in the United States believe the United States has succeeded in expelling Soviet influence from the Middle East. There are others in the area who see differently. We, for example, tell the United States that the failure so far to solve the Palestinian problem will create many opportunities for conflict. International political viewpoints differ. Things are not judged as black and white. Many factors are involved and sometimes one factor overwhelms the others.

[Question] What type of facilities will the United States be given in light of the U.S. Defense Department's announcement regarding the establishment of a new central command covering the Middle East, the Arab Gulf, and the Indian Ocean and including 19 countries?

[Answer] The matter is currently under discussion between the Egyptian foreign minister and the U.S. State Department. We have not yet reached any kind of agreement. The Foreign Ministry will announce any agreements that might be reached in this regard.

[Question] In your meeting with the commander of the Rapid Deployment Force [RDF], did you discuss the type of facilities the United States wants Egypt to provide in Ras Banas?

[Answer] The meeting with the RDF commander was for the purpose of discussing the possibilities of joint training between Egypt and the United States along the lines of the "Bright Star" maneuvers. He proposed to me the possibility of holding the next exercise in 1983, and I informed him that there was a possibility for such an exercise. Committees are to be set up to discuss all the details relating to the Egyptian-U.S. maneuvers. The principle has been agreed upon, but the details have not been discussed or agreed upon yet.

[Question] One of the most critical tasks at the state level is to define the adversary. Who is Egypt's adversary today?

[Answer] I hope Egypt will have absolutely no adversaries.

[Question] But certain statements by officials here indicate that Israel will remain Egypt's potential adversary, particularly since what was said about the deployment of 16 Israeli brigades in the Negev on the Israeli borders.

[Answer] Egypt's adversaries are those who threaten it. Any country has the right to deploy its forces inside its borders the way it likes. Egypt's strength is its men and forces, and it is capable of deterring any aggression.

[Question] Even if these forces were on your borders?

[Answer] As long as we do not see them as jeopardizing our borders, we would simply remain cautious and keep our eye on them.

[Question] This leads us to the Egyptian-Libyan borders. You said in one of your statements to the press that the Libyan concentrations could become offensive. Do the Libyan concentrations still have the same characteristic today?

[Answer] We say that any commander or person responsible for national security must always look around to see whether there is any buildup in the military forces of any neighboring country. Because a military buildup raises questions.

Even if such a buildup does not constitute a threat at present, he should take precautions. Therefore, I would say that we view with concern any military buildup around us and take it into consideration. This applies to any strategic trend.

MEMO SENT TO U.S. CONGRESS ON EGYPTIAN PRESS

NC242224 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2205 GMT 24 Dec 82

[Text] Cairo, 24 Dec (MENA) -- The Foreign Ministry has sent a memorandum to Egyptian Ambassador in Washington Dr Ashraf Ghurbal to distribute to congressmen in reply to a memorandum that Israel had distributed. In its memorandum, Israel refers to the violent tone in the Egyptian newspapers during Israel's aggression against Lebanon.

The Egyptian memorandum points out that Egypt's press is free and expresses the views of its masses, which rejected the Israeli aggression and the massacres of Sabra and Shatila. It also says that Egyptian articles are considered to be part of the rejection and condemnation campaign launched by the world's newspapers and radios, which recorded the ugliest images of destruction, devastation, and massacres to which the Palestinians and Lebanese people were subjected.

MINISTRY SPECIALISTS STRESS RIGHTS TO TABAH

NC251535 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 25 Dec 82

[Text] Egypt has stressed its adherence to the need for solving the Tabah problem quickly and permanently through reconciliation and arbitration in accordance with the articles of the peace treaty and the 25 April 1982 agreement. This was stated following a meeting today of a group of political and legal specialists in the Foreign Ministry as well as organs concerned with the Tabah problem.

The group emphasized Egypt's adherence to its full sovereignty over the area as well as to the 25 April agreement. Egypt stressed its rejection of all Israeli attempts to impose a new fait accompli on the area.

Assistant Foreign Minister ash-Shafi'i 'Abd al-Hamid presented a report to Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali on the results of the meetings of the group in charge of the Tabah problem. 'Ali approved the future plan of action to safeguard Egypt's rights to the area.

PRC'S ZHAO ZIYANG CONCLUDES VISIT 24 DEC

Interviewed on Relations

NC232013 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1920 GMT 23 Dec 82

[Text] Cairo, 23 Dec (MENA) -- PRC Council of State Premier Zhao Ziyang has announced that there is much agreement and proximity of views between China and Egypt on many important international issues.

He affirmed that his country will pay much attention to the development of its economic relations with the countries of the Third World, especially its economic relations with Egypt.

This came in an exclusive interview which the Chinese premier granted to MENA on board the plane which took him back to Cairo at the conclusion of his visit to Luxor and Aswan.

The Chinese premier said that he is confident that the great Egyptian people under the wise leadership of President Mubarak and his government will accomplish great achievements that will bring prosperity to their country.

At the beginning of the interview, the Chinese premier replied to a question on the visit he made today to Luxor and Aswan and the Pharoanic antiquities and modern Egyptian achievements represented in the building of the High Dam, which he visited. He said: I would like to begin my statement by extending thanks for the cordial welcome accorded me by the residents of the two cities. This shows the cordial sentiments linking the Egyptian and Chinese peoples.

The Chinese premier added: I take this opportunity to express my great admiration for the magnificent ancient civilization I saw in Luxor. I also express my appreciation for the Egyptian will in building the High Dam, which is considered one of the most famous in the world.

The Chinese premier said that these achievements underline a fact, that is, the intelligence of the Egyptian people since thousands of years ago. They also reflect the splendid will of the Egyptian people.

He added: I am confident that the great Egyptian people under the leadership of His Excellency President Mubarak and the Egyptian Government will make greater achievements in building their country to achieve progress and prosperity.

Asked about the role the Chinese Government can play in overcoming some of the problems facing the Egyptian economy, to which President Mubarak is devoting special attention at this time, the Chinese premier said that China, Egypt, and the developing countries are all facing this joint task, which is to build their national economy and raise the standard of living of their people.

He added: I see in the Chinese people and the Egyptian people their capabilities and differences. We must cooperate with each other to complement each other and overcome any difficulties which face us. But we must first begin by searching for the means which will lead to the development of economic cooperation on the basis of equality and mutual benefit with a view to joint development.

He said: China will give much attention to the development of economic relations with the Third World countries and to the development of its economic relations with Egypt. I am confident that there will be a bright future soon in this sphere.

Asked to comment on the talks he held with President Mubarak and whether one can say that there was a proximity of views between Egypt and China on all matters raised during the discussions and whether there are some matters on which no agreement was reached, the Chinese premier said: I can say that there was much agreement and similarity of views between China and Egypt on many important international issues. But in view of the difference in conditions and experiences and the look at subjects from several angles, it is natural that not all views would agree with each other; but this should not mean that this would constitute an obstacle in the development of the Chinese-Egyptian relations, which are much more important than any other subjects, big or small.

Departs Cairo

NC240757 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 24 Dec 82

[Text] PRC Council of State Premier Zhao Ziyang left Cairo at 0900 this morning after a 4-day visit to the Arab Republic of Egypt, during which he had talks with President Muhammad Husni Mubarak on international issues in general and the Middle East issue in particular. The talks also focused on consolidating relations between the two countries in various fields.

The distinguished Chinese guest was seen off at Cairo airport by President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and senior Egyptian officials.

CAIRO CITES SAUDI MAGAZINE ON 'ARAFAT VISIT

NC230638 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 23 Dec 82

[Text] PLO representative in Cairo Sa'id Kamal has stated that PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat will visit Egypt in the middle of January following the meeting of the Palestine National Council in Algiers. In an interview with the Saudi magazine AL-YAMANA, Kamal said the date of the visit has been carefully planned in view of the importance of the visit, which will be the culmination of all the visits and contacts that have taken place between Egypt and PLO in recent months.

Kamal said some parties believe the restoration of relations between Egypt and the PLO will minimize the latter's role. He added that the recent stands by the PLO leadership have reflected a strong desire to restore unity with the eldest sister, Egypt.

QNA: KING HUSAYN TO EMBARK ON ARAB TOUR

GF221432 Doha QNA in Arabic 1150 GMT 22 Dec 82

[Text] Kuwait, 22 Dec (QNA) -- News reports published here today said that His Majesty King Husayn, monarch of Jordan, will embark on an Arab tour after he returns to Jordan from Washington, where he is currently visiting.

The Kuwait newspaper AL-WATAN said this tour will include Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and Iraq in addition to other countries with the aim of briefing their leaders on the results of his talks with U.S. President Ronald Reagan within the framework of efforts for finding a solution to the Middle East problem.

KING HUSAYN CONCLUDES TALKS WITH REAGAN

JN240830 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 24 Dec 82

[Text] Washington -- His Majesty King Husayn and U.S. President Reagan concluded their second round of talks in the White House in Washington last night. The talks were held at 1430 Washington time, 2130 Amman time. They were attended by his majesty's delegation and senior officials of the U.S. Administration.

At the end of the talks, President Reagan told journalists that his talks with King Husayn were extremely fruitful and achieved progress toward a just and lasting peace in the Middle East. The President affirmed that a peace dialogue had started and that we should not retreat from it, because it is the right way to achieve a solution to the Palestinian question within the framework of a real and permanent peace. President Reagan also said: Jordanian-U.S. friendship is strong, enabling us, in the coming weeks and months, to achieve our objective of attaining the just and lasting peace to which our two peoples aspire.

In a statement to the press, his majesty thanked President Reagan for the hospitality accorded him and his delegation. He said that this visit had taken place at a very important time. His majesty said: I would like to tell the skeptics that my visit was very successful. I am sure that today we understand each other's opinions better than before.

In his statement, his majesty confirmed that Jordan had been committed to the objective of achieving a just and permanent peace since 1967. This stand, he said, was emphasized at the Fes summit, which represented Arab unanimity on peace. His majesty also said: I would like to assure you of our determination to exert every possible effort to achieve a just and lasting peace in the Middle East. When we go back to our homeland, we will contact our Arab brothers to acquaint them with the results of our talks.

At the end of his statement, his majesty expressed a desire to meet with President Reagan again soon to achieve progress on the road to peace, which will ensure a better future for coming generations in the Region.

Arrives in Austria

JN241018 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 0920 GMT 25 Dec 82

[Text] Vienna, 25 Dec (PETRA) -- His Majesty King Husayn arrived here yesterday on a visit of several days to Austria at the end of his official working visit to the United States. He was received at Vienna airport by Austrian President Dr Kirchsclaeger and several ranking officials.

On his way to Vienna, his majesty made a short stopover at Shannon Airport in Ireland, which he met with Peter Barry, [name as received] Irish minister for foreign affairs.

SHAM'UN MEETS AL-JUMAYYIL, MAKES STATEMENT

NC231926 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 23 Dec 82

[Text] President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil this evening received in the Republican Palace [former] President Camille Sham'un within the framework of the consultations he is holding with Lebanese leaders to assess the efforts being made to liberate Lebanon from all foreign forces.

Following the meeting, Sham'un was asked about the proposed negotiations with Israel and the extent to which Lebanon can go in these negotiations. He said: I believe that the result of the negotiations should be an Israeli withdrawal from Lebanese territory. What we are saying about the Israeli forces also applies to all foreign forces on Lebanese territory. He added: The Lebanese territory must be liberated from all non-Lebanese armed forces. Of course, the negotiations must lead to such a result. There is give and take in the negotiations and when we negotiate something, the important thing is to agree on the result.

Concluding his statement, Sham'un said: Naturally concluding peace [sulh] is out of the question and a peace treaty [mu'ahabat sulh] is out of the question. Since a peace treaty is out of the question and the result is to be Israel's withdrawal from Lebanon, there will be give and take between these two issues to secure Lebanon's interests, as I have understood from His Excellency President al-Jumayyil.

STATEMENT ISSUED ON STAGE OF TALKS WITH ISRAEL

NC241820 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 24 Dec 82

[Excerpts] The Lebanese efforts are being intensified so as to begin negotiations with Israel as soon as possible and to expedite the withdrawal of the foreign forces from Lebanon.

At the meeting, which was held between President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil and Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan today with Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim, Ambassador Antoine Fattal, former Ambassador Ghazzan Tuwayni -- who is responsible for coordination in the negotiations among the various sides -- and Dr Wadi' Haddad, an evaluation was made of all the ideas and proposals pertaining to the negotiations.

It has been learned that procedural matters are still being discussed and that Lebanon still adheres to its stand, namely, that the negotiations should start as soon as possible.

Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan said after the meeting that on the occasion of the feasts of Christmas and the Prophet's birthday, he extends best wishes to all the Lebanese people. He added: It is regrettable that we should daily see before ourselves new proposals; no sooner than we overcome one obstacle, other obstacles are placed before us. Today, we find before ourselves new Israeli proposals that will keep the anticipated negotiations from taking place on the date we were seeking. We are facing this difficult phase with a positive spirit and with complete openness with Lebanese, Arab, and international public opinion.

Al-Wazzan added: We are holding onto our right and on the basis of this holy right we are working to liberate our Lebanese land from everything that harms it, particularly the Israeli occupation, which must not continue. We have spent a long time postponing the negotiations for one reason: Harmony must prevail among ourselves, our Arab brothers, and all others, over the fact that we should not accept that the negotiations should take place in Jerusalem.

Al-Wazzan added: We feel that we are facing the reality of occupation with all the negative points it symbolizes, which have an impact on our existence and interests. We feel distressed on the eve of the festivities that we should be faced with new proposals that we cannot accept with such ease but must tackle.

He added: At today's meeting, we evaluated all this and we searched for the best positive stands which will safeguard the national dignity and national principles so as to proceed along the course of achieving all that will lead to definitive salvation. Maybe the news we shall receive today or later will enable us to resume the discussions and arrive at the negotiating table.

Prime Minister al-Wazzan was asked: Do you think that these conditions will delay the meeting that it was hoped would be held on Monday or Tuesday?

He replied: This is what I meant when I said proposals and not conditions. It is the proposals that are delaying things. We are not concerned with conditions or counter-conditions. There are proposals for starting work on the formal sphere but they are linked with the essence on whose basis it is not possible to begin. [sentence as heard]

Postponement Explained

NC241604 Paris AFP in English 1545 GMT 24 Dec 82

[Text] Beirut, Dec 24 (AFP) -- Lebanese Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan said today that new Israeli proposals were behind the postponement of the Israeli-Lebanese talks, which Lebanon wanted to begin today.

Mr al-Wazzan said the new proposals had to do with "the underlying nature of the problem" and that it was "impossible to begin negotiations on this basis."

The Christian Phalangist AL-'AMAL newspaper said today that Israel wanted:

-- To have a definite response on the withdrawal of Palestinian fighters from Lebanon before negotiations began;

-- To define the political objectives of the talks; and

-- To wait for the results of meetings in Tunis between Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) leaders and Lebanese presidential envoys Jean 'Ubayd and General Nabil Quraytim.

Mr al-Wazzan met here today with President Amin al-Jumayyil, Ghazwan Tuwayni, who is coordinator of negotiations for the withdrawal of foreign troops from Lebanon, and Antoine Fattal, former Foreign Ministry secretary general and head of the Lebanese delegation to the Israeli-Lebanese talks.

Mr al-Wazzan said Lebanese leaders were studying "the best possible solutions for us to save our dignity and national principles and achieve definitive national salvation."

NEGOTIATIONS WITH ISRAEL TO BEGIN 28 DEC

NC261725 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 26 Dec 82

[Text] The Lebanese-Israeli negotiations will begin in Khaldah on the day after tomorrow, Tuesday. This was stated today in both Lebanon and Israel.

President Amin al-Jumayyil today chaired a meeting that was attended by Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan, Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim, Ghazzan Tuwayni and Dr Wadi' Haddad. During the meeting, agreement was reached on the members of the Lebanese team to the tripartite committee in charge of ensuring the Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon. The names of the Lebanese team will be announced later.

Foreign Minister Salim has said Lebanon has decided to participate in the talks through the said committee with a positive spirit to secure total Israeli withdrawal from Lebanese territory and to return Lebanese sovereignty over every inch of the Lebanese soil. Minister Salim said other committees will be set up to discuss the withdrawal of the other non-Lebanese forces from Lebanon. Concluding his statement, Salim said the members of the Lebanese delegation in this committee will be considered in continuous session to ensure complete coordination and to make the Lebanese stand clear in the negotiations.

Ambassador Morris Draper, who held direct contacts with Israel this afternoon, said Israel has officially agreed to begin the talks and that the first meeting will be held in Khaldah on Tuesday.

AL-WAZZAN DISCUSSES NEGOTIATIONS WITH ISRAEL

NC261850 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1652 GMT 26 Dec 82

[Excerpts] A great religious ceremony was held in Al-Fatwa house in the 'A'ishah Bakkar area at 1100 today on the occasion of Prophet Muhammad's birthday under the auspices of the higher committee of the 15th Hegira century. Participating in the ceremony were heads of the Islamic creeds: Mufti of the Republic His Eminence Shaykh Hasan Khalid; the Higher Islamic Shi'ite Council deputy chief, His Eminence Muhammad Mahdi Shams ad-Din; and the Druze sect shaykh, His Eminence Muhammad Abu Shaqra. Also attending the ceremony were Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan, a number of deputies, former prime ministers and ministers, a number of Arab and Islamic ambassadors to Lebanon, a group of religious leaders, civilian personalities, and a crowd of worshippers.

The ceremony was concluded by an extemporaneous speech by Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan. He said:

[Begin recording] Your Eminences, esteemed audience: I could not refrain from attending such a gracious occasion. The circumstances are delicate and our thoughts are worried. It is your right to be kept in touch, and this is a gracious occasion for getting in touch. [applause]

After all that we have heard, what can we say other than that you and I share the same feelings and we agree on the appeals that we have heard, on the basis of which we are working. We are seeking to achieve full unity throughout Lebanon and on every inch of the soil of this beloved homeland. We want unity after all that has happened and we have encountered, after we became sick of saying this country is for the Muslims, the Christians or for both, particularly after the foreigner came, after the Israeli came among us to expel us and say: I am here and I want to impose my views. We have rejected and will reject this. We rejected this in the hours which we passed in the most intense suffering. The Israeli is seeking to impose [his will] and expel us, but we are tenaciously holding to our pride and principles. [applause]

I left a meeting to come to you. Maybe I have no right at this stage to elaborate, but it is your right to know that we will not be lax. We have limits and rights. They [the Israelis] have tried to impose conditions for negotiations on us while we are living in the most painful times of repugnant occupation, which will continue if we do not stop what is taking place inside Lebanon. They are trying to impose conditions for negotiations on withdrawal from our land. This is one of our most sublime rights to which we tenaciously and unconditionally hold.

When they asked for -- or imposed -- a working paper, we said we did not accept working papers and that our only working paper is our right to a free and sovereign homeland, on which only its Lebanese sons will live. [applause] Our only paper is that embodied by international will in the UN Security Council Resolutions 508 and 509, which dictate that the Israelis leave the country and withdraw unconditionally. This is our condition and principles, with which we will confront anything that confronts us, whether or not you have heard of it yet.

We are supposed to discuss, demand, listen to, and reject anything that harms the homeland's sovereignty and pride. The reports are not confirmed and I cannot confirm anything on the commencement of the negotiations process before we are officially informed about this issue. We have grown accustomed to rely only on actualities. I would like to take this opportunity to appeal to all of you to maintain close ranks and realize with us that we are waging a difficult battle. We waged this battle in Beirut. You know how much you, this heroic city, and its southern suburb have sacrificed so that the word of the homeland, freedom, and pride remain upheld. Today we are facing a similar stage. We will not be lax, particularly if you stand by our side steadfast and supportive and rally around the legitimate government, understanding all its difficulties and those of the homeland. Frankly speaking, our situation is more difficult than any other situation. If I do not say this here, where can I say it?

The Sinai remained in Israeli hands for a long time, but Egypt did not fall. The Golan Heights are in the hands of the Israelis, but Syria did not fall. The Israelis are in the core of the homeland. They are in the mountain, in the Beirut suburbs, in B'abda, Ash-Shuf, Al-Matn, and everywhere. They are in our core threatening us with (?destruction). We are racing against time. You in this hall are representatives, leaders, and sons of the homeland. I appeal to you to stand by us because we will stand by you and work for you and, inspired by the birth of the Prophet Muhammad and Christ, we will nurture all meanings, ideas, and values. Peace be upon you. [end recording]

BLAST NEAR ISRAELI FACILITY IN SIDON REPORTED

NC261909 Paris AFP in English 1904 GMT 26 Dec 82

[Text] Beirut, Dec 26 (AFP) — An explosion occurred this evening at the entry to Sidon, where the headquarters of the Israeli army's civilian assistance are located, according to reports reaching here.

The reports said that two helicopters were sent to the scene to evacuate the dead and wounded.

Following the explosion Israeli forces sealed off the sector and imposed a curfew, the reports said.

Later reports said the explosion was caused by a rocket fired at the civilian assistance headquarters. Between three to six Israeli soldiers were killed in the attack and two Lebanese civilians wounded, the reports said.

BA'TH PARTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE STATEMENT

JN232034 Damascus Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1841 GMT 23 Dec 82

["Text" of statement issued by the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Central Committee at the conclusion of its sixth session held 18-23 December 1982]

[Text] The Central Committee of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party in Syria held its sixth session under the chairmanship of President Hafiz al-Asad, Arab Socialist Ba'th Party secretary general, from 18-23 December 1982. The committee discussed the state budget for 1983. The discussion dealt with the budget's general guidelines and principled considerations in light of which the budget was drawn up. Stress was laid on the budget's impact on development in Syria and its possible effect on the degree of growth in our economic life in general. The observations and discussions of the committee members dealt with the issue of blending the budget plan with the strategic aims and short-term targets laid down in the fifth 5-year plan.

During the session, the discussions were held in an atmosphere of high-level responsibility. This had a positive effect on the proposals, recommendations, and resolutions that were adopted to increase the production and the quality of our products, and to decrease the administrative expenditures and reduce the rate of waste to its lowest possible mark. During their serious and detailed discussions, the party comrades expressed their appreciation of the government's measures to increase local revenues, limit the trend for consumption in our society, ration consumption, give priority in the economic policy to the process of production and growth, and ration imports and exports in order to strengthen our national economy and avoid the shocks in the international markets.

The committee stressed the need for punishing negligent persons in order to protect our economic structure. It also stressed that legislation, planning, and execution must stem from deep-rooted socialist stands in the service of the society and to build a progressive, socialist state. The statement affirmed that all reactionary attempts at weakening our socialist march would not be tolerated. The committee noted with satisfaction our increasing national production in quantity and quality and the success of our establishments in their productive plans as manifested in the gains of these establishments and their economic development. The ratios of implementation in our investment projects have been satisfactory and high, affirming our confidence in our national economy.

The committee showed great interest in agriculture in Syria. It recommended speedy implementation of land reform and the continuation of material and technical services to Syrian peasants. The services sector took a great part in the committee's discussions. The comrades noted with appreciation the Syrian Government's continuous efforts to spread services in the urban and rural areas, overcome all obstacles, and raise the standard of living of the citizens. The party comrades stressed the need to further improve the services sector and to continue the efforts to overcome all difficulties and obstacles that might stand against it.

Thanks to the productivity of our workers and producers, and their wisdom in dealing with various aspects of our public sector, our national economy has been able to stand fast and enable revolutionary Syria to remain steadfast and true to all its pan-Arab commitments.

During its discussions, the committee devoted special attention to the needs of our armed forces in order to strengthen the steadfastness of Syria in confronting the Zionist aggression.

The party comrades reviewed various aspects of the political situation, particularly the Israeli aggression against Lebanon -- with U.S. support -- to liquidate the Palestinian cause, destroy Lebanon's unity, and strike at Syria's steadfastness. The committee expressed appreciation for Syria's pan-Arab, daring, and principled policy under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad in facing the aggression, defending the national cause, and confronting the stand against the Camp David line and the attempts to impose a state of surrender on the Arabs. The committee discussed the Arab situation and stressed the need for efforts to realize a more effective Arab contribution toward confronting the Israeli enemy.

The committee discussed the war the Iraqi regime launched against the Islamic revolution in Iran. The committee reiterated our position on this war, which has led to paralyzing Iraq's pan-Arab role and the role of the Iranian revolution in confronting the Zionist aggression.

Reviewing the situation in the region and the world, and the connection between the two, the committee stressed the importance of continuing to promote relations with the socialist states, headed by the friendly USSR, and developing relations with it on the basis of the treaty of friendship and cooperation between the two countries. The committee also stressed the importance of Syria's active role in the Nonaligned Movement and in the international arena in the service of our strategic aims.

Discussing the role of our armed forces in Lebanon, and their brave confrontation with the Israeli aggression despite the imbalance in the various elements during the fighting, the committee highly appreciated the role of our armed forces in facing the aggression and defending the Arab nation's honor and dignity and the masses of our Lebanese people and our Palestinian brothers there. The committee saluted our armed forces and brave martyrs whose chaste blood watered the dear Lebanese soil. The committee reiterated Syria's stand at Lebanon's side to realize Israel's withdrawal from its territory and prevent the enemy from imposing its terms on fraternal Lebanon. The committee unanimously supported Syria's firm and principled policy as expressed by the Arab-Socialist Ba'th Party secretary general in the Syrian Trade Union Federation's conference and in the opening session of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Central Committee.

The committee reiterates the continuation of this firm policy. The committee is certain that our Arab nation will defeat the enemy regardless of the difficulties and the cost. We have no choice but to continue our struggle with patience and faith until our nation realizes its aims in unity and freedom and in building a society of progress and socialism.

REPORT ON WEEKLY CABINET MEETING 26 DECEMBER

TA261132 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1120 GMT 26 Dec 82

[Cabinet Secretary Dan Meridor reads Cabinet decision following the weekly meeting in Jerusalem on 26 December -- live]

[Text] In the weekly Cabinet meeting, the defense minister reviewed the recent contacts on the Lebanese issue. The Cabinet held a discussion following the review by the defense minister. I can announce that the talks between Israel and Lebanon will take place in Qiryat Shemona, as far as Israel is concerned, and in a place [not further specified] in Lebanon, as far as Lebanon is concerned. The first session will take place on Tuesday, 28 December, in Lebanon. The second session will be on Thursday, 30 December, in Qiryat Shemona.

The foreign minister reported to the Cabinet about the visits he paid to Argentina and Uruguay and about his meetings with the government and opposition leaders in these countries. The foreign minister also reported on the meetings he held with the Jewish communities' members and the issues he raised in those meetings. The foreign minister also reported about a meeting he had with U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Mr Veliotos in New York on his way back to Israel in which he received details about King Husayn's visit to the United States.

The interior minister reported to the Cabinet about the incidents in Kefar Shalem [where a youth was killed when he tried to stop police from tearing down an illegally-built house]. The interior minister announced that the police inspector general has asked to appoint an investigating justice to examine the circumstances of the death of Shim'on Yehoshu'a. The Cabinet held a discussion about this in the course of which Deputy Prime Minister David Levi made remarks which we will publicize shortly.

A last subject I will mention: According to the interior minister's proposal, the Cabinet appointed a ministerial committee to look into the road accidents issue. The committee will be chaired by Transport Minister Hayim Corfu, and its other members will be Deputy Prime Minister and Housing Minister David Levi, Finance Minister Yoram Aridor, Education Minister Zvulun Hammer, and Interior Minister Dr Yosef Burg.

More on Cabinet Session

TA261525 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 26 Dec 82

[Text] At the Cabinet session, the defense minister confirmed that Lebanese Administration officials retracted their agreement to sign the statement of principles that were agreed upon; however, they reconfirmed they're continued support for it. Sharon enumerated what he thought were the reasons for the changes in the Lebanese position: the Lebanese Administration's embarrassment because of the change from secret to open contacts; and the U.S. position encouraging the Lebanese not to sign the document. In the defense minister's opinion, this was related to Washington's desire for Israel to make some sort of move regarding Judaea and Samaria, and for its achievements in Lebanon to be limited. The defense minister announced that Israel's delegation to the negotiations would place on the deliberations table a draft agreement on the normalization, the security arrangements, and the order of the IDF's withdrawal from Lebanon.

Our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer has learned that Minister Tzipori bitterly attacked Sharon at the session, explaining that the complications arose from the premature publicity, the leaks, and the interviews he had given about the statement of principles.

Tzipori vigorously demanded a rapid pullout, as soon as possible, from the Ash-Shuf hills, and welcomed the Foreign Ministry's renewed intervention in the negotiations. He proposed that the entire Cabinet follow the talks and decide on the priorities. Other ministers joined in Tzipori's criticism of the IDF's continued presence in the Ash-Shuf hills and the mediation missions given it in the interfactional war. Minister Uzan wanted to know the reasons for the casualties suffered by the IDF in Lebanon last week. Minister Pat warned that publicity of the Cabinet's priorities in the negotiations might become known to the Lebanese and thus sabotage the talks. At Pat's suggestion, Ministers Ehrlich and Burg were incorporated into the ministerial committee that will guide Israel's delegation. The committee also includes the prime minister, the foreign minister, and the defense minister. Minister Moda'i wanted to know whether the document of principles with Lebanon had been publicized deliberately and whether this had made the negotiations easier or more difficult.

MERIDOR DENIES AL-WAZZAN CLAIM OF POSITION CHANGE

TA261244 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 26 Dec 82

[Text] The talks between Israel and Lebanon will begin this Tuesday in Lebanon, and the second meeting of the negotiating teams will be on Thursday in Qiryat Shemona. This was announced after today's Cabinet meeting in Jerusalem. From the prime minister's office, David Essing reports.

[Essing] -- During today's Cabinet session, Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon reported on his recent contacts with Lebanese officials. The Cabinet then held a discussion, and after the meeting Cabinet Secretary Dan Meridor confirmed the start of the Lebanese-Israeli negotiations for Tuesday.

[Begin Meridor recording] The talks between Israel and Lebanon will take place at Qiryat Shemona and in Lebanon. The first meeting will be held on Tuesday, 28 December. At Lebanon. The second meeting will be held on December 30 in Qiryat Shemona.
[end recording]

A Lebanese statement on the start of the talks is expected to be made around this hour in Beirut. The Israeli statement today does not mention the site of Khaldah, south of Beirut, the scene of recent clashes between warring Christian and Druze militiamen. The earlier uncertainty over the date of the opening may be linked to differences in Lebanon over whether negotiations should deal with normalization between the two countries, normalization opposed by Lebanon's Muslim Premier Shafiq al-Wazzan. The Lebanese official had accused Israel of raising new positions and issues, blocking the opening. Today, Cabinet Secretary Meridor rejected Premier al-Wazzan's charges.

[Begin Meridor recording] There is no new Israeli position. We have our position, and the government approved last week the document reached at by Israeli and Lebanese, and there is no change in position, and I hope the talks will start as soon as possible, and we'll see results -- I don't know how soon -- but we'll see them. [end recording]

So for the time being, and barring further surprises, Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil would seem to have achieved Lebanese agreement to negotiate on the basis of the document of understanding already agreed upon with Israel. A document that refers to normalizing relations, security arrangement, and the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon.

'SOURCES': AL-WAZZAN NOT AWARE OF ALL AGREEMENTS

TA251908 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 25 Dec 82

[Text] Our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer reports from political sources in Jerusalem that the contacts between Israeli elements and members of President al-Jumayyil's administration are continuing this evening in a bid to have the talks open as scheduled either Monday or Tuesday. As for the announcement issued by the Lebanese prime minister, the same sources noted that Shafiq al-Wazzan was not aware of all the agreements [sikumin] reached with Al-Jumayyil's men.

PEACE TALKS WITH LEBANON TO BEGIN 28 DECEMBER

TA251938 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1919 GMT 25 Dec 82

[Text] The talks between Israel and Lebanon will open in Khaldah on Tuesday, our political correspondent Yoram Ronen reports. The Lebanese asked that the opening of the negotiations be postponed by 1 day because of the Prophet Muhammad's birthday, which is marked on Monday. A simultaneous official announcement will probably be issued tomorrow in Jerusalem and Beirut on the opening of the talks. Our correspondent adds that the Lebanese have been experiencing difficulties in moving from the confidential, secret stage to the public stage of the negotiations.

Jerusalem political sources have expressed the fear that the United States might pile up obstacles to the negotiations in an attempt to link the arrangement [hesder] in Lebanon to the implementation of President Reagan's plan.

The talks between Israel and Lebanon will take place 2 days a week, on Mondays in Khaldah and on Thursdays in Qiryat Shemona. The Israeli delegation will receive directives from a steering team that will include the prime minister, the foreign minister, and the defense minister. Defense Minister Sharon will report tomorrow to the Cabinet on the progress made in the negotiations.

Another subject that will be discussed at tomorrow's Cabinet session will be the foreign minister's report on his trip to Argentina and Uruguay. Mr Shamir will also report on his meeting with U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Veliotos, who briefed him in New York on King Husayn's talks in Washington.

Lebanese Announcement Received

TA262111 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2100 GMT 26 Dec 82

[Text] A senior Israeli official has said in Tel Aviv that a direct announcement was received today from the Government of Lebanon confirming the opening of the negotiations on 28 December, negotiations which he says are to be over a withdrawal of forces and normalization.

EHRlich, LEVI ON NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE

TA261354 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1347 GMT 26 Dec 82

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister Simha Ehrlich and Interior Minister Yosef Burg have been incorporated into the steering committee that will guide the Israeli delegation to the negotiations with Lebanon. This has been reported by our political correspondent 'Oz Frankel. The proposal to incorporate the pair with the prime minister and Ministers Sharon and Shamir was raised at the Cabinet session by Minister Gid'on Pat, who said that it was fitting that the steering committee should have the broadest representation possible because the negotiations would require rapid decisions without convening the Cabinet. The Cabinet, as stated, has approved Pat's proposal.

JERUSALEM RADIO ON U.S.-ISRAELI DIFFERENCES

TA240559 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 24 Dec 82

[Text] Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon spent the night in Beirut. He apparently dealt with completing the contacts before the beginning of the negotiations next week. Over the last few days, authoritative people from President al-Jumayyil's administration have confirmed the principles agreed upon in the talks with Sharon which will be the basis for the negotiations. Here is our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer:

Let us again emphasize that over the last few days, authoritative representatives of the Lebanese Government have again confirmed the document of principles agreed upon with Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon, which is to be the basis for the talks to open next week between representatives of the two countries. The issues to be discussed are full normalization, a cessation of the state of belligerency, security arrangements, that will prevent the return to the terrorist organizations, and the stages of the withdrawals. Elements close to the talks estimate that the negotiations will be constantly filled with crises and will last for about 2 months. However, these sources believe that in the end, the talks will produce an agreement between Israel and Lebanon.

There are varying views in Jerusalem about the status to be granted the United States in the negotiations. True, Israel and the United States are partners in the general objectives involving the arrangements in Lebanon, but this is not the case regarding the detailed objectives. From the comments made by Philip Habib in his talks with the prime minister, it emerges that the United States and Israel disagree over the following issues: Jerusalem aspires to an agreement for full normalization in relations with Lebanon; for the United States, normalization of the relations, step by step, is a hope for the future. Security zones within the 40-50 km area; Israel wants to arrive at an agreement with the Lebanese that there will be no foreign forces in these zones and that three Israeli early-warning stations will be established there. The United States has the opposite position: it supports the continued positioning of UNIFIL forces and is opposed to the establishment of Israeli early-warning stations, claiming that if this happens, the Syrians will also demand establishing early-warning stations in Lebanon. In the assessment of authoritative political sources, given the fragile condition of the regime in Lebanon, they [not further identified] will be the first who, with the encouragement of the U.S. positions to be presented, will retreat from the agreements achieved.

To conclude: Crises are expected in the negotiations that have not yet begun. Israel will demand a great deal of normalization; Lebanon will demand a rapid withdrawal and agreements [sikumim] under the table and, at the conclusion of the process -- as occurred with the Egyptians -- agreements [heskemim] will be achieved, even if some of them are stuffed in envelopes which Jerusalem political elements call "Nefertiti envelopes" -- that fictitious airline company established by the Egyptians to keep the flight agreement with Israel. So, there will be de facto peace in different envelopes.

MA'ARIV ON 'SECRET' ISRAELI-LEBANESE CONTACTS

TA241351 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 24 Dec 82 pp 1, 11

[Report by Ilan Kfir and military correspondent Ya'aqov Erez]

[Text] Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon met last night in Beirut with senior Lebanese Government figures and determined with them that the direct negotiations between Israel and Lebanon would open next week.

The Lebanese Government representatives agreed with the defense minister that their government would release an official announcement today on the opening of the talks with Israel in Khaldah. At the same time, an announcement would be released in Jerusalem. This would be the first joint statement by the two governments.

In secret contacts last night, Lebanese Government figures reapproved the agreements [sikumin] that were reached between Israel and Lebanon in the secret document.

Syria and the leaders of the Lebanese left are putting heavy pressure on Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil to back out of the document of understanding that was reached in the secret negotiations with Israel.

In Jerusalem, it was learned that the pressure is accompanied by threats against Lebanese Government leaders intended to undermine the efforts by President al-Jumayyil and his Cabinet to achieve stability in the country and start the process of the foreign troops' withdrawal from Lebanon. The Syrians and the leaders of the Lebanese left are exerting special pressure on Lebanon's Muslim prime minister, Shafiq al-Wazzan.

Jerusalem thinks that the bombing yesterday of the area where the talks will be held in Khaldah was part of the pressure campaign against the Lebanese Government. That bombing is attributed to Druze leftist forces in Junblatt's camp.

Following the reports of pressure being exerted on the Lebanese president, Israel has decided to demand from the Lebanese representatives at the start of the negotiations, a commitment to honor the entire understanding.

Israel will oppose any attempt by the Lebanese to back out of the document's contents or introduce changes into it that are contrary to the understanding that was reached in the secret talks between the two sides.

The direct negotiations between Israel and Lebanon will open this coming Monday or Tuesday at the Lebanese Beach Hotel in Khaldah. Yesterday, Israel rejected Lebanon's proposal -- passed on by the United States -- that the talks begin today.

Prime Minister Menahem Begin yesterday met with members of the Israeli delegation to the negotiations, which is headed by Foreign Ministry Director General David Kimche. The defense team, which will discuss the security arrangements, will be headed by Major General Avraham Tamir, and also will include Brigadier Generals Ori Sagi and 'Amos Gilbo'a.

Political sources in Jerusalem have expressed the view that it would be possible to complete the talks within 2 weeks if the two sides abide by the joint document of principles.

Yesterday, the incidents in this area became worse, and several Phalangists were wounded in the fighting. Both sides fired mortars, and heavy fighting was reported.

An Israeli vehicle that was travelling in the area was hit during the shooting. The IDF's attempts to stop the firing were in vain and after short cessations in the shooting, both sides renewed their fire.

Last night, Deputy Prime Minister David Levi told MA'ARIV: "Extra special caution must be exercised as long as Lebanon speaks with two tongues."

"It is only around the negotiating table that Israel will be able to examine the genuine and official intentions of the Government of Lebanon in everything connected with the nature of the relations with Israel, what it really intends."

"The meeting between official representatives of both countries is a breakthrough that is to be welcomed, but no one expects that in the negotiations we will only discuss our departure from Lebanon and the achievement of an agreement that only answers the expectation of one side."

Mr Levi stressed that the political progress had been achieved thanks to the flexibility of the Government of Israel.

He also said that the paper of principles achieved between Israel and Lebanon was not a secret document, and it should not be one.

EHRlich VIEWS U.S. PARTICIPATION IN TALKS

TA231602 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1510 GMT 23 Dec 82

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister Simha Ehrlich said this afternoon that Israel should incorporate the United States in stages of the negotiations with Lebanon and avoid coming out with belligerent statements against it and implying that the U.S. is Israel's number one enemy. Mr Ehrlich expressed reservations about attempts to predict the results of the talks with Lebanon that will begin next week. The deputy prime minister was addressing the 14th convention of the Farmers Union today in Tel Aviv. Our correspondent Meron Tzur reports on his remarks:

[Begin recording] [Ehrlich] We have no friend that is more loyal, a better friend, or a stronger or more supportive friend whether politically, militarily, or economically. Let us not employ such a style toward the great superpower, our only friend in the world, that reeks of a declaration of war. In so doing, we would be missing our target.

[Tzur] There are legitimate differences of opinion between ourselves and the United States. These must be worked out around the table, as among friends. There is interdependence between ourselves and the United States, who needs us just as much as Israel needs them. Even though there are differences in interests, along with common interests, this should be handled quietly in the correct fashion, not with headlines or declarations that could result in a rift or a crisis.

[Ehrlich] If the choice has to be between a crisis with the U.S. Administration as opposed to a government crisis, as far as I am concerned, the choice is quite obvious.

[Tzur] Mr Ehrlich did not mention the defense minister's name at all, but the audience named Ari'el Sharon as the one who was the target for these remarks by the deputy prime minister. It is impossible to unite the Lebanese issue with the demands by Egypt and Jordan, Mr Ehrlich said.

[Ehrlich] In my opinion, the two issues cannot be linked. Things will happen the way we believe -- but not by way of belligerent declarations stating that the United States, so to speak, is Israel's prime enemy. This is the impression that is being created. This creates a polarization that might have negative results. This should be opposed, which is why I am so obtrusive and outspoken.

[Tzur] The deputy prime minister concluded his statements by saying that he hopes positive results will come out of the negotiations with Lebanon, whether this happens quickly or if it takes more than 2 weeks. We will not conduct negotiations with a stopwatch or under threats. Then we may possibly see the fruit of the achievements of the war, for which we paid a very dear price. [end recording]

IDF SPOKESMAN ON DEATH OF SOLDIERS IN LEBANON

TA231502 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 23 Dec 82

[Text] The IDF spokesman announced that two IDF soldiers were killed and one injured near the 'Ayn al-Hulwah refugee camp, not far from Sidon. Two local inhabitants were also hurt. This occurred this morning when an explosive charge planted near an IDF position blew up. The families of the deceased have been notified. The IDF is searching the area and trying to determine the circumstances of the incident.

IDF SPOKESMAN REPORTS TWO SOLDIERS WOUNDED

TA251957 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1955 GMT 25 Dec 82

["IDF spokesman announcement No 1"]

[Text] [no dateline as received] Two IDF soldiers were hit at approximately 2100 today by light arms fire and a bazooka shell that was directed at an IDF vehicle near 'Alayh. The wounded were evacuated to the hospital and IDF units are combing the area.

ASH-SHUF DRUZE, CHRISTIANS PROMISE CEASE-FIRE

TA251016 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 25 Dec 82

[Text] The Druze and Christians in the Ash-Shuf mountains have promised the conciliation delegation from Israel that the two communities will stop fighting. Our correspondent Yo'el Dar reports that the delegation, which consists of Muslim, Druze and Christian public figures, met in Dayr al-Qamar with the Druze leaders and Phalangist commanders. The two sides promised the delegation leader, Druze Shaykh Nur ad-Din al-Halabi, to stop firing.

IDF CONVOY AMBUSHED; TWO WOUNDED 26 DEC

TA261942 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 26 Dec 82

[Text] This evening, two IDF soldiers were wounded at about 1800 when a convoy of IDF vehicles moving south of Sidon was ambushed by small arms fire. Fire was returned at those firing the shots, and IDF units have begun searching the area.

HISTADRUT SIGNS NEW WORK AGREEMENT FOR EL AL

TA270539 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 27 Dec 82

[Text] Following 9 hours of deliberations, the Histadrut signed a new work agreement for El Al early this morning. Our correspondent Eli'ezer Pney-Gil reports that it signed the agreement on behalf of all the workers, by virtue of a power of attorney, but did not have the pilots' agreement. Temporary liquidator 'Amram Blum has not yet signed the agreement, which he will only do after conferring with the attorney general this morning.

He may then ask the court for a 3-day grace period to make it possible for the legal problems involved with signing the agreement to be resolved, and possibly even persuade the pilots to join the agreement. This morning the Labor Court will discuss the request submitted by the El Al pilots to forbid the Histadrut to sign on their behalf.

FRG APPROVES ISRAELI 'DEVELOPMENT CREDIT'

TA270847 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 27 Dec 82 p 2

[Report from Bonn by Daniyel Dagan -- "exclusive" to HA'ARETZ]

[Text] Last week, after a delay of about 2 months, the Governments of Israel and West Germany signed a new agreement granting Jerusalem convenient development credit of 140 million marks. In contrast to what has been the custom in previous years, the agreement was signed modestly, without official publicity having been given.

Signing the agreement is another expression of the goodwill of Helmut Kohl's government toward Jerusalem. It has come after deliberations by the highest echelons in the government. Bonn is in the habit of making Israel an annual credit grant of 140 million marks.

Under the current political and economic conditions, the continuation of the credit grant of the accepted amount is considered to be an important achievement. The credit to Israel comes to the government budget intended for aid to developing countries. As with the United States, West Germany is the only Western country that grants the Israeli Government credit.

POLL SHOWS BEGIN LEADS FOR PRIME MINISTER

TA241253 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 24 Dec 82 p 1

[Report by Yesha'yahu Ben-Porat]

[Text] Question: Who, in your opinion, is more suitable for the post of prime minister? (The answers are in percentages, results last month are in parentheses.)

Begin - 56 (54), Navon - 16 (13), Rabin - 7 (9), Peres - 2 (6), Weizman - 2 (2), Sharon - 1 (1), Shamir - 1 (1), no answer - 25.

Question: If the elections were to be held now, and if a party headed by 'Ezer Weizman were to be established, for whom could you vote? (The results are in numbers of seats.)

Likud	51
Alignment	37
Weizman	15
National Religious	
Party	5
Agudat Yisra'el	5
Hadash	4
Tehiya	2
Shinuy	1
TAMI	0
Citizens Rights	
Party	0

Note: Concerning the second question, there is no relevance to a comparison with last month's results, since there is still no question of the establishment of a party headed by Weizman. The above poll, conducted by YEDI'OT AHARONOT, covered 1,164 interviewees according to a representative sample of the Jewish population. The poll was conducted between the second and third weeks of December.

ALGERIAPRC PREMIER ZHAO ZIYANG PAYS OFFICIAL VISIT

Arrives 24 December

LD241414 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1200 GMT 24 Dec 82

[Excerpt] Chinese Premier Mr Zhao Ziyang has arrived in Algiers within the context of an African tour. He was met at Boumediene International Airport by President Chadli Bendjedid.

Meets Chadli Bendjedid

LD242255 Algiers Domestic Service in French 2200 GMT 24 Dec 82

[Text] The official visit to Algeria of the premier of the PRC State Council, Zhao Ziyang, has begun with political talks. There was a meeting at a working luncheon this afternoon between President Chadli Bendjedid and Premier Zhao Ziyang. The talks centered on bilateral questions and international problems. The two leaders had already met in April on the occasion of President Chadli's visit to Beijing, thus bilateral cooperation has already been examined to a large extent.

I hope that my visit will serve the furthering of understanding and friendship as well as solidarity and cooperation between our two countries, Mr Zhao Ziyang had said on his arrival in Algiers.

Official Talks Open 25 Dec

LD251418 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 25 Dec 82

[Excerpt] Official Algerian-Chinese talks began this morning at the presidency following a round of tete-a-tete talks between President Chadli Bendjedid, president of the republic and secretary general of the FLN, and Zhao Ziyang, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the PRC and member of the CPC Central Committee Politburo Standing Committee.

The talks were attended on the Algerian side by Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, member of the FLN Political Bureau and minister of foreign affairs; and by the brother members of the FLN Central Committee Abdelhamid Brahimi, minister of planning and national development; Saleh Goudjil, minister of transportation and fisheries; [name indistinct], adviser at the presidency; Abdelkarim Ghaieb, Algerian ambassador to the PRC; and [words indistinct].

On the Chinese side they were attended by State Councillor Gu Mu, Foreign Minister Wu Xueqian; Deputy Foreign Minister [name indistinct], Deputy Minister of Foreign Economic Relations and Trade Lu Xuejian, PRC Ambassador to Algeria Xu Ming and the remainder of the delegation accompanying the Chinese premier.

Talks End

LD262146 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 26 Dec 82

[Text] The Algerian-Chinese talks which were headed by President Chadli Bendjedid, president of the republic and secretary of the FLN party, and Zhao Ziyang, chairman of the PRC State Council and member of the CPC Central Committee Politburo, were concluded this afternoon at the Jinan al-Mithaq House in Algiers.

The talks were attended on the Algerian side by Brothers Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, member of the Political Bureau and foreign affairs minister, and Al-Akhdar al-Ibrahimi, presidential adviser; and on the Chinese side by Vice Premier Gu Mu and Foreign Minister Wu Xueqian.

PLO'S YASIR 'ARAFAT ARRIVES 26 DECEMBER

LD262018 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 26 Dec 82

[Text] PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Algiers this evening. He was welcomed at the airport by Brother Slimane Hoffman, chairman of the party foreign relations committee; (Zawatin), official in charge of the liberation movements in the party; the PLO representative in Algiers; Abu Ja'far, director general of the PLO Political Department; Nabil 'Ammar, director general of the Voice of Palestine radio; and 'Abd ar-Rahmin, PLO representative in China.

PRC Premier Receives 'Arafat

LD262242 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 26 Dec 82

[Text] Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, arrived in Algiers this evening. Mr Zhao Ziyang, chairman of the PRC State Council, received Mr 'Arafat this evening.

LIBYAAL-QADHDHAFI SPEAKS AT 25 DEC TRIPOLI DEBATE

LD261032 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0700 GMT 26 Dec 82

[Text] Tripoli, 26 Dec (JANA) -- The brother leader of the revolution last night participated in a democratic debate held at the Basic People's Congress in Tripoli, the Great March Center, on the first article of the agenda of the Basic People's Congresses concerning the revolutionary mobilization program.

The leader of the revolution stressed the need for the masses to assume responsibility for the consequences of their decisions regarding agenda articles. In this respect the leader urged the masses of the Basic People's Congresses to make decisions according to their free will, for all the popular decisions will be implemented by the People's Committees. This must be taken into account in making any decision by the masses of the People's Congresses.

He said that once the People's Congresses have entrusted the People's Committees with the task of carrying out their decisions on any article on the agenda, there should be no objection or criticism concerning the means of implementing the decisions of the masses of the congresses.

The leader underlined that the People's Committees, in their implementation of the decisions of the Basic People's Congresses, may resort to the use of any means, including harsh ones. By so doing they would not be practicing dictatorship but carrying out popular democracy in accordance with the power of the people and revolutionary violence.

He said that for the people to be able to force their way toward their objective they must exercise revolutionary violence against impeding elements and open up prospects before the holy march of the masses proceeding toward a better future.

The leader explained that this fundamentally covers the decisions made by the Basic People's Congresses concerning the realization of military and economic power, confrontation of the Zionist death train and colonialism, the projects of change, the growth of production, and other serious questions and issues included in the agenda of the third session of the People's Congresses.

The leader stress the absolute freedom of the masses of the People's Congresses in their decisions. He said that the masses are free to decide what they deem fit, to introduce the substitutions they want, and to cancel what they want. They are, for example, free to replace plants or part thereof with roads, or to stop farming or a type of farming in a region. So one imposes his opinion on them and they are not subjected to patronage or instigation from anyone.

He said: I do not object to any decision and it is not my responsibility. My task is to help and to explain, so that I may open the door before you, so you are free to make decisions or rejections. It is your right to say no or to say yes, and to trace the right path in order to achieve what we aspire to as a people exercising freedom.

The leader concluded his explanatory talk and observations by stressing that despite the popular trust, he contended he could not make decisions alone because this would be against the will of the people, against the power of the people, and the power of the people is bound to stay firmly entrenched.

Further Remarks

LD270946 Tripoli JANA in English 0856 GMT 27 Dec 82

[Text] Tripoli, Rabi' al-Awwal 12, Dec 27, Jamahiriya News Agency -- The revolution's leader yesterday made further comments and clarifications over points made in the current debate of the Basic People's Congresses (BPC's) third session.

In clarifications over points made in the debate of the Bourka BPC, the leader said it is the right of every citizen to freely make his point without interruptions by anyone whatever the nature of the views expressed. He said such interruptions would be tantamount to the practice of dictatorship.

On the attempts to belittle the seriousness of the threat of the U.S.-backed Zionist death wagon, the leader said the Zionist death wagon (?is a) great danger to the Arab nation's fate. He said the Zionists occupied Palestine, killed more than 30,000 Arabs in Lebanon, occupied Sinai, the West Bank, the Golan Heights and Gaza Strip in 1967, and imposed capitulation on the traitor As-Sadat.

The leader said that this threat cannot be countered by a defeatist spirit and policy, but by the total mobilisation of Arab forces.

The leader also made further clarifications regarding the basic military training of preparatory school students.

Finally, the leader reaffirmed the necessity of providing the opportunity for every citizen to freely and frankly express his view at his Basic People's Congress, thus practicing his natural right to authority.

JANA ON PLANNED ISRAELI-LEBANESE TALKS

LD261524 Tripoli JANA in English 1416 GMT 26 Dec 82

[Text] Tripoli, Rabi' al-Awwal 10, Dec 82, Jamahiriya News Agency -- Following the approval of the Lebanese cabinet last Wednesday, negotiations are imminent between the Lebanese authorities and the Israelis over the withdrawal of Zionist forces from Lebanese territories.

A report from Beirut this morning said the timing of the first session in these negotiations has not yet been agreed, but it will be held in the Lebanon beach hotel in the coastal town of Khaldah south of Beirut's international airport.

JANA's political editor published the following commentary on the involvement of the Lebanese Government in negotiations with the enemy.

Negotiations between the Lebanese authorities and the Israelis imply grave dangers that will inevitably force the Lebanese people to once again pay a high price over their existence and the erosion of their freedom and dignity.

Involvement in such negotiations, planned by the U.S. Administration, will be of no use for the Lebanese people. For the Zionist occupation will not be uprooted and the field will remain wide open for U.S. imperialism to reap some of the results of its strategic alliance with the Zionist enemy. This alliance is basically dedicated to imposed hegemony and enable Israel to expand, pillage and usurp.

In order to appreciate the true meaning of the dangers looming for Lebanon, it is essential to realise that these negotiations will lead to the imposition of Zionist conditions on Lebanon, something that the U.S. envoys to the region have been trying hard to achieve... It is because of this that the Lebanese should abort these designs against their freedom, existence and Arab character.

Acquiescence to Israeli-American demands will tie Lebanon to occupation and make it a hostage of the U.S. Administration. Lebanon should therefore demand the unconditional expulsion of the occupiers without the holding of negotiations with the Zionist enemy.

The most effective remedy for removing the Zionist cancer from Lebanon neither lies in the political negotiations nor shuttle missions of Philip Habib and his assistant Draper. It does not also lie in acquiescence to marginal extortions or bargaining, but in confronting the occupiers and resisting them.

The Lebanese people should thus carry arms and confront the occupying enemy through a people's war that will only remove the Israelis from Lebanon in coffins.

The Libyan Arab people, who are mobilising their resources to confront the Zionist death wagon, are completely prepared for mobilising their human and material resources to enter Lebanon's popular battle and to fight the usurping Lebanon so that the Lebanese people may remain Arab and free.

MOROCCO

YAMANI LEAVES RABAT AT END OF ARAB OIL TALKS

LD270526 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1715 GMT 26 Dec 82

[Text] Rabat, 26 Dec (SPA) -- The [Saudi] minister of petroleum and mineral affairs, Dr Ahmad Zaki Yamani, today left Rabat after taking part in the ministerial meeting of the Arab organization for mineral wealth, which ended yesterday.

The minister of petroleum and mineral affairs pointed out, before his departure, that his talks with the Moroccan minister of energy and mines, Moussa Saadi, came within the strong ties between the Kingdom and Morocco, which would enable the two countries to take great steps in this field.

GHANARAWLINGS ON LACK ON CONCERN FOR STATE PROPERTY

AB270827 Accra Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 27 Dec 82

[Text] The chairman of the PNDC [Provisional National Defense Council], Flight Lieutenant Rawlings, has again expressed concern at the attitude of Ghanaians to state property, and warned that this attitude cannot be allowed to be taken into the new year. This applies to all types of social evils which the revolution is against.

Flt Lt Rawlings was speaking during a chat with workers when he paid a surprise visit to the Tema harbor yesterday. He was particularly worried about the obvious lack of maintenance in the Ghana Cargo Handling Company. He warned that henceforth any driver who smashes a government vehicle will be required to work with the fitters in the workshop until the vehicle is repaired. The PNDC chairman spoke about lack of proper storage at the harbor for sensitive cargoes like drugs. He said it is the duty of every worker to be concerned about what goes on around him and draw attention to things which go wrong.

Flt Lt Rawlings assured the workers that there will be no redundancies. Instead, there will be redeployment on a massive scale. During the chat the workers briefed the chairman on a catalogue of malpractices at the port. A security guard called for the streamlining of the security system. He said the system as it is now is so cumbersome that it gives a lot of room for people with evil intentions to maneuver.

50-MEMBER LIBYAN DELEGATION ARRIVES FOR SEMINAR

AB261350 Accra Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 26 Dec 82

[Text] A 50-member Libyan delegation arrived in Accra yesterday to attend a 3-day international seminar on the Green Book written by the Libyan leader, Colonel al-Qadhdhafi. The seminar opens tomorrow.

The delegation was welcomed at the airport by a member of the Provisional National Defense Council, Wo Adjei Buadi. He said the holding of the seminar in Accra is important because it will make Ghanaians learn the political forms and the working procedure of the theory and practice of the Green Book. Wo Adjei Buadi said the seminar will give Ghanaians the opportunity to share political thoughts with the other participants. He said Ghanaians have a lot of inspiration to draw from Libya's immense experience in the revolutionary process. He added that during the seminar, Ghanaians will learn a lot to correct their mistakes.

Touching on People's Defense Committee's and Workers Defense Committees, Wo Adjei Buadi said their creation is not only aimed at putting power in the hands of the people, but also a reflection of Ghanaians' cause to fight against imperialism, neocolonialism and exploitation. The delegation is led by Mr Mohamed Adil, general secretary of the world center for researches and studies of the Green Book. He thanked the government and people of Ghana for agreeing to host the seminar and said it shows the solidarity that exists between Ghana and Libya.

PNDC ANNOUNCES CHANGE IN CURFEW HOURS 23 DEC

AB232230 Accra Domestic Service in English 2200 GMT 23 Dec 82

[Text] The Provisional National Defense Council [PNDC] has announced a change in the curfew hours.

With effect from tomorrow, the period will be observed from midnight to 0500, instead of from 2200 hours to 0500 hours. The new time will continue until further notice. An official statement this evening explained that the decision to reduce the curfew period is to allow holidaymakers more time to spend the Christmas and the New Year.

NIGERIA

SHAGARI ASKS FOR UNITY, RESTRAINT ON STATEMENTS

AB251000 Lagos Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 25 Dec 82

[Text] President Shehu Shagari has called on Nigerians to exercise restraint in their utterances, especially during next year's general elections. In his Christmas message to the nation, President Shagari said that any action which seeks to divide the nation must be avoided.

The Christmas season, he said, offered an opportunity to rededicate our lives to the service of God and our fellow men. President Shagari stated that Nigerians should see the season as one to resolve to shun materialism and selfish interests and toward the love for one another and charity for the less fortunate. He urged them to move into the new year with greater determination to make the country great. To achieve this, he added, you must be patriotic, honest and diligent citizens who are sincere in their devotion to God.

President Shagari also used the occasion to contribute effectively to the ethical revolution launched recently by the federal government stressing that it was the foundation for a greater Nigeria.

POLICE SEARCH PASSENGERS FOR FIREARMS AT AIRPORT

AB241100 Lagos International Service in English 0830 GMT 24 Dec 82

[Excerpt] The police in Lagos yesterday mounted an intensive search on passengers arriving in the country at Murtala Muhammad International Airport, Ikeja. An airport official told newsmen that the police were acting on a tip-off that some passengers tend to use Christmas to import firearms into the country. He also said that the police had taken over the inspection of luggage from the Department of Customs and Excise. Customs men have, however, vowed to protest to the government over the action.

When contacted, the area administrator of customs at the airport, Ruben Afonagoro, refused to comment on the issue, but another top official of the department described the takeover as usurpation of the legitimate duties of the Custom Department.

The director of State Service of Nigeria Airways, Alhaji Mahmud Shaba, said the police action was a normal routine check because it is not aimed at embarrassing anybody or any airlines.

TOGO

EYADEMA REMOVES FOUR FROM POLITICAL BUREAU

AB231952 Lome Domestic Service in French 1900 GMT 23 Dec 82

[Excerpts] In accordance with the provisions of Articles 34 of the Constitution of the Togolese People's Rally, the head of state, General Gnassingbe Eyadema, today decided to terminate the membership in the Political Bureau of those militants affected by the age limit or not holding ministerial posts. The affected militants are Ayite Gachin Mivedor, Yaya Malou, Koudjolou Dogo, and Frititi Vouley.

ANGOLAMONGOLIAN MINISTER CONVEYS TSEDENBAL MESSAGE

MB231549 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 23 Dec 82

[Text] Yesterday, Comrade Jose Eduardo dos Santos, chairman of the MPLA-Labor Party and president of the People's Republic of Angola, received a personal message from Marshal Yumjaagiyn Tsedenbal, Mongolian head of state. The message was carried by (Or Sok), Mongolian deputy minister of foreign affairs, who arrived the day before yesterday. The representative of the Mongolian People's Republic, who's heading the delegation, said on his arrival that he is in Luanda to exchange experiences with the Angolan authorities and to discuss matters relating to international politics.

Yesterday, (Or Sok) and Comrade Venancio de Moura, the Angolan deputy minister of foreign affairs, began talks to exchange experiences and to discuss international politics.

LESOTHOPIK BOTHA REMARKS 'UNFORTUNATE, DEPLORABLE'

MB231451 Maseru Domestic Service in English 1130 GMT 23 Dec 82

[Station commentary]

[Text] Statements by South African Foreign Minister Pik Botha insinuating that Lesotho is not in favor of good relations with South Africa are both unfortunate and deplorable. Coming as it did, only 2 weeks after South Africa launched an invasion of Lesotho, which resulted in the massacre of innocent civilians, including women and children, Pik Botha's statement continues to manifest the mental sickness and political dilemma in which the Pretoria rulers find themselves. It is paradoxical that a country like South Africa, which has the senseless audacity to violate so nakedly our territorial integrity and (?sovereignty), and to [words indistinct] can so dramatically turn back and accuse Lesotho of standing in the way of good neighborliness between our two countries.

South African rulers deceive the world [words indistinct] complained to Lesotho on several occasions about the presence of ANC bases in Lesotho. And yet they have never pinpointed these bases except in cold blood, when they massacred innocent refugees and other South African people including Lesotho citizens. If this is a way of maintaining good relations between two countries, it is the strangest way in history and perhaps comprehended only by Pik Botha and his fellow apartheid masters in Pretoria.

As we have repeatedly stressed, there are no ANC military bases in Lesotho, and the South African soldiers who drained the blood of 42 people in Maseru on the 9th of December did not find any. What the soldiers found, and what they will continue to find in their subsequent invasion, which they have already promised, are innocent refugees who have fled from the apartheid oppression in the country of their birth. Not only black people but also white people like (Nicholas Meyer), who arrived in [words indistinct] this Wednesday, fleeing to Lesotho from the nefarious policy of apartheid, dehumanization and dispossession.

In case Botha and his colleagues should not appreciate the point, we must state here that it is not an entertaining job to care for people who have had to flee from their country of birth, not only because of limited capacity, but also because among them there are planted agents who have (?the task of) sowing seeds of confusion in our country and to spy on other refugees. South Africa should surely know that we have never invited refugees, but that they come to Lesotho because of apartheid. In the circumstances, and if South Africa wants all the people of that country to remain within its national boundaries, the solution is very simple; and it lies in the total and unconditional dismantling of the apartheid system which separates sons from their mothers, daughters from their fathers and husbands from their wives, as they flee in pursuit of human status in other parts of the world. For as long as apartheid survives, it will continue to produce refugees; and if Pik Botha and his (?colleagues) have no desire to part with apartheid, maybe what is left for them to do is to build a wall around their boundaries so that no more refugees can come to Lesotho. Trying to use Lesotho as a scapegoat for the South African refugees problem is both unhelpful to Pretoria and deplorable.

GOVERNMENT CRITICIZES OPPOSITION ON REFUGEES

MB241750 Maseru Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 24 Dec 82

[Text] A spokesman for the Lesotho Government today described a call by the leader of the minority United Democratic Party, for the removal of all South African political refugees from Lesotho as un-African, unfortunate and opportunistic. The spokesman was commenting on press statements in which Mr C.D. Mofeli said that all political refugees should be removed from Lesotho to other countries. Mr Mofeli said this would be in the interest of Lesotho's security.

The spokesman said that Mr Mofeli's call served the interests of South Africa, which also clearly wants to see all refugees out of Lesotho. It was treacherous, the spokesman said, that a man calling himself a politician, should bend so [words indistinct] to South Africa's whims using Lesotho's security as a pretext.

He added that Mr Mofeli's un-African attitude towards refugees was calculated to please South Africa so that it can support him in his hopeless bid to get a political footing in Lesotho.

The spokesman concluded by rejecting outright Mr Mofeli's call for the removal of refugees from Lesotho, and invited him to advise South Africa to dismantle apartheid if it did not want to see refugees in Lesotho. The spokesman said Lesotho would not be intimidated by military might from honoring its humanitarian and internationalist obligations.

MAURITIUS

PRIME MINISTER CLARIFIES NATIONALIZATION POLICY

MB271012 Port Louis LE MAURICIEN in French 11 Dec 82 pp 1, 4

[Text] In order to dissipate any confusion in the minds of the public about the nationalization policy, Prime Minister Aneerood Jugnauth, speaking yesterday in the Legislative Assembly, denied a newspaper report which gave the impression that the government envisages the compulsory acquisition of private properties through the property acquisition bill. Mr Jugnauth stressed that the government has stated on several occasions that only four sectors -- the sugar industry, public transportation, the port, and Air Mauritius -- will be affected by nationalization.

The other sectors of the economy, especially the export processing zone, tourism, and private property, will be excluded from the nationalization program.

"The government has no intention of introducing a property acquisition bill that would cover all sectors," the prime minister said. However, he added, the Ministry of Justice is preparing an amendment to the constitution that will permit the nationalization of certain sectors with the payment of compensation over a certain period, but not necessarily in money. There will be no confiscation of property as such, Mr Jugnauth said.

Explaining further, the prime minister observed that the constitution, as it stands now, makes it mandatory for any government which nationalizes any company to pay immediate compensation, and the party concerned has the right to repatriate the whole claim without paying taxes.

"This clause in our constitution is archaic and colonial in nature, and the government is considering amending it."

The amendment being prepared, the prime minister specified, will guarantee the right to private property, as is the case now. Clauses in the constitution which protect citizens against confiscation of their property (Section 8, and especially the guarantee of personal privacy and other property (Section 9), will be maintained.

The prime minister disclosed further that the government will nationalize 20,000 acres of land belonging to other factories. In the case of Air Mauritius, the government has decided initially to acquire a majority share in the company.

The prime minister indicated that a bill amending the constitution will be circulated first, before the intended measures are implemented.

MOZAMBIQUE

RADIO REPORTS ON ALMEIDA, DOS SANTOS TALKS

EA261608 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1030 GMT 26 Dec 82

[Text] We are sure that your visit will be a landmark in the consolidation and strengthening of our relations of friendship, cooperation, and solidarity in the struggle against imperialism. This was said this morning by Marcelino dos Santos at the opening of the talks between Mozambique and Cuba. The Cuban delegation to the talks is led by Juan Almeida Bosque, member of the Cuban Communist Party Central Committee Political Bureau and vice president of the Councils of State and Ministers, who has been here since yesterday on a visit to our country.

In his address, the secretary of the Frelimo Party Central Committee for Economic Affairs, having stressed the struggle that people are waging against colonialism, racism, and apartheid, also considered delegations exchanging visits as a means to strengthen and share relations on a solid basis of mutual trust. The agreements that govern our all-round relations are the solid basis of our cooperation which is aimed at strengthening and broadening the achievements of our two peoples and socialist states, Marcelino dos Santos said.

In response, Juan Almeida Bosque, vice president of the Cuban Councils of State and Ministers, praised the growing relations of friendship and cooperation between his country and Mozambique. We Cubans deeply appreciate the already solid ties of friendship between Cuba and Mozambique, and hope to unite our forces even further in the struggle against racism, colonialism, and all forces of aggression in the world, in particular on the African Continent, Juan Almeida Bosque said. This morning, the Cuban vice president, accompanied by Marcelino dos Santos, also laid a wreath at the Mozambique heroes monument.

SOUTH AFRICAMINISTER PROMISES 'RELEVANT INQUIRIES' ON KOEBERG

MB231355 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 23 Dec 82

[Text] In Pretoria, the minister of mineral and energy affairs, Mr du Plessis, has said that a license for the inauguration of Koeberg will not be issued before all relevant inquiries by experts and the authorities responsible into the safety of the plant, are completed. He said in the statement, that physical security was part of the investigation, and as he had already indicated, both local and foreign expertise was being sought.

A team of foreign advisers have been involved with the security analysis at Koeberg for some time. The coming into operation of the first unit of Koeberg would take place only after investigations had been completed to the satisfaction of the Atomic Energy Corporation, in cooperation with foreign and local advisors, and the Independent Council for Nuclear Safety and the government.

PFP Delay Campaign Questioned

MB231832 Umtata Capital Radio in English 1800 GMT 23 Dec 82

[Text] The South African Government has reacted with surprise to a Progressive Federal Party call to delay the commissioning of the Koeberg nuclear power station. It was reported that Constantia member of Parliament Roger Hulley intends launching a campaign to delay the commissioning of Koeberg after four ANC bomb blasts there at the weekend.

Mineral and Energy Affairs Minister Pieter du Plessis says he has already given an assurance that Koeberg will not be commissioned at the cost of the safety of the public. He says he is surprised that Hulley is launching a campaign which can only result in what he believes will be further and unfounded anxiety among the general public and the breaking down of faith in the responsible authorities.

ZIMBABWESECURITY FORCES MOUNT OPERATIONS AFTER ATTACKS

MB261037 Umtata Capital Radio in English 1000 GMT 26 Dec 82

[Text] Zimbabwe security forces have mounted two new major operations in Matabeleland. The operations follow two Christmas Eve attacks by heavily armed antigovernment rebels. Three people died in the attacks and Zimbabwe's vital rail line to the north was damaged.

Follow-up operations have begun after the attack, which took place on buses and cars on the main Bulawayo-to-Gweru road.

Spokesman on Rebel Attack

MB261224 Harare Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 26 Dec 82

[Text] A police spokesman has announced that armed bandits attacked three buses and a number of cars along the Gweru-Bulawayo road on Friday evening, killing three people. The bandits are said to have carried out the attack at the 95.5 km peg along the Gweru road. The spokesman said the bandits robbed and assaulted the passengers and burned two buses before firing at a Gweru bound passenger train.

The police are investigating the incident.